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THE ANCESTRY OF
SARAH JOHNSON



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THE REBECCA NURSE HOUSE

THE ANCESTRY
OF
SARAH JOHNSON

1775-1824

WIFE OF JOSEPH NEAL

OF

LITCHFIELD, MAINE

BY

WALTER GOODWIN DAVIS

PORTLAND, MAINE
THE ANTHOENSEN PRESS

1960

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INTRODUCTION

THIS is the fifteenth in a series of studies of the forefathers of my sixteen great-great-grandparents, and, unfortunately, one of the less satisfactory. Two of the families, Johnston—Johnson and Huchason—Hutchinson, were Ulster Scots and they lived in frontier towns in New Hampshire and Maine where records are sparse. Using the Scotch forms of their surnames for some years after their arrival in New England, it is interesting to see how these were assimilated by similar English names as their bearers became merged in the population of predominantly English descent. The Nurse and Hutchinson families of Salem must have thousands of descendants of these and other names, and both of them deserve full-scale genealogies. The accounts of Towne and Blessing are lifted, with practically no change, from my *Ancestry of Dudley Wildes*. From them I descend in three lines, so they are of particular interest to me.

Although this is written before the fact, the proof will have been read by Miss Sybil Noyes and will benefit from her careful and intelligent criticism.

WALTER GOODWIN DAVIS

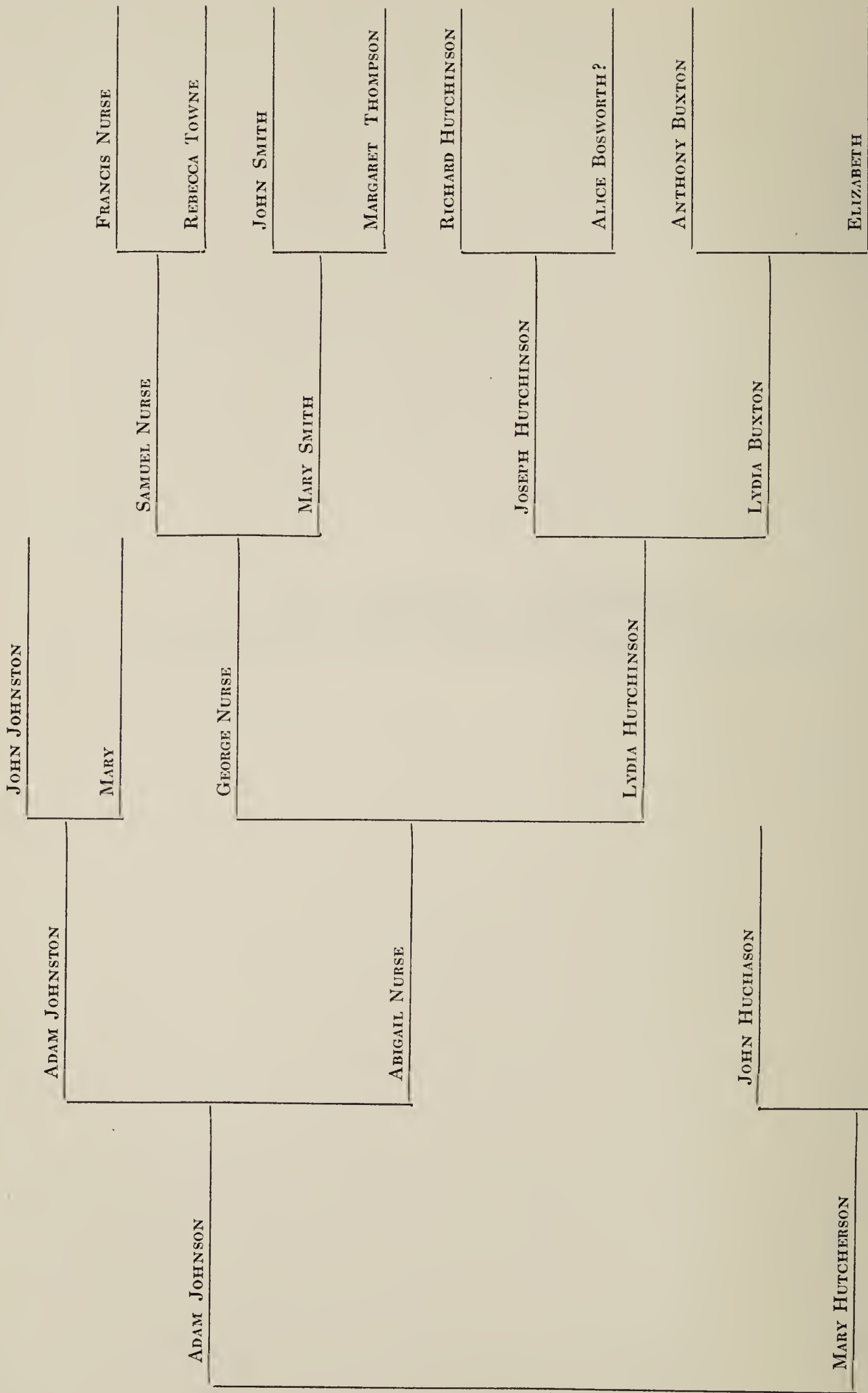
Portland, Maine

May 8, 1960

I

JOHNSTON—JOHNSON, OF
LYNN, LYNDEBOROUGH AND LITCHFIELD

SARAH
JOHNSON



THE ANCESTRY OF SARAH JOHNSON

JOHNSTON—JOHNSON

Johnston or Johnstone is one of the great lowland clans of Scotland, centering in Kirkcudbright, the head of which was the Marquess of Annandale, a title at present dormant. The given name Adam is a common one among the Annandale Johnstones as it is in the American family with which we are to deal.*

1. JOHN JOHNSTON is first found in Lynn in 1741 when, on September 9, he bought from Benjamin Goodhue of Salem house-lot 58 in the town called Salem-Canada which was later known as Lyndeborough, New Hampshire.† He did not move to Salem-Canada until 1746, and, as there is no record of his purchasing land in Lynn, it is probable that he rented quarters there for his family while he looked about for a suitable place to settle. During the interval two of his children married into Lynn families. By December 29, 1746, he was established in Salem-Canada, however, and on that day he deeded to his son Adam, who was then in Reading, near Lynn, house lot 45 in Salem-Canada which he had presumably just purchased.‡

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Johnston". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

A traditional account of the family says that John Johnston was born in Scotland, married Mary Anderson and moved to Ireland before embarking for New England. Also in Lynn there were James and Mary Johnston, quite probably related to John, who had a son Archibald baptized on August 10, 1730, and a daughter Mary on June 22, 1731. They do not appear in Lynn records again. In Scarborough, Maine, another James Johnston settled

* *The Scots Peerage*, Sir James Balfour Paul, Vol. I, article Annandale.

† Hillsboro Deeds, 2: 430.

‡ *Ibid.*, 2: 159.

in or about 1732, and, as one of John Johnston's sons was in Scarborough in 1760, it is probable that John of Lynn and James of Scarborough were close kinsmen.*

Johnston was soon joined in Salem-Canada by his son Adam and his son-in-law Jacob Wellman. They cleared their land and tilled the soil, and their neighborhood became known as Johnston's Corner. In 1763 they signed the petition for the incorporation of the town under the name of Lyndeborough, and in 1766 John Johnston was one of a committee to procure land "for a meetinghouse spot."

In 1772 Johnston, probably approaching the age of eighty years, deeded Lot 58, containing sixty acres, "on which I now dwell," to his son Adam, presumably in return for a promise of life support.† A year later, on August 6, 1773, Adam Johnston, his father joining in the deed, sold the same "farm on which we now live" to James Boutelle for £200, one of the witnesses being Jonathan Johnston, probably of the third generation.‡

In 1780 there was some misunderstanding or difficulty between the father and son, and the old man, engaged in a lawsuit and being restrained by Adam Johnston, gave a power of attorney to his daughter Rachel Sewell of Amherst, "seamster." With this, two papers are on record in the registry of deeds:

(1) "Let this inform any that it may concern that my son Adam is under obligation to find for me what I want in sickness and health. I therefore now want an attorney to plead a cause in court and money for other charges John Johnston
Lyndeborough June ye 29th 1780 P.S. I hope there wont be judgment given against me till I am supplied for my own defense that my interest be not taken from me for nothing. Received 28 Feb. 1781."

(2) "Lyndeborough Feb ye 23rd 1781 Mrs Smith I would inform you that my son Adam has drawed me into Snaer [snare] in sending the papers down to you to be given to the Rule of Court to stop my case from going on I would be glad if you would not deliver them but keep them till I call for them, for I disallow them and you will oblige yours to serve

JOHN JOHNSTON

Attest Simon Carson
William Carson

* *Ancestry of James Patten*, W. G. Davis, 1941, p. 91.

† Hillsboro Deeds, 2: 430.

‡ *Ibid.*, 1: 312.

Feb 27th 1781 The within acknowledged before
Nahum Baldwin J peace

Received 28 Feb 1781"*

In a letter dated January 31, 1781, Capt. Jacob Wellman, husband of Jane Johnston, wrote to his brother "mother Johnson is dead," and to the same correspondent he wrote on March 5, 1785, "My Father Johnston is Dead, he died the twenty-sixth day of December Last. He did not live ten minutes after they knew anything was the matter with him."†

Children, born in Scotland or Ireland:

2. i. ADAM.
- ii. JANE; m. Capt. Jacob Wellman in Lynn, int. Jan. 9, 1742/3, the record calling her "Jenne"; d. in Lyndeborough Nov. 11, 1783. Her grandson said that she was "a Scotch lady." Capt. Wellman was born in Lynn April 24, 1720. In 1764 he was commissioned ensign in the New Hampshire militia by Gov. Benning Wentworth and was advanced to a captaincy in 1765.
- iii. ISABEL; m. William Carson of Lyndeborough, probably her cousin; living in 1817. Carson died in Lyndeborough in 1818, aged 96 years.
3. iv. JAMES, born in Ireland in 1726.
- v. RACHEL; m. ——— Sewell; d. in 1813. Her husband was probably the only man of his name connected with Lyndeborough, Sergt. Thomas Sewell, whose service in Col. Gridley's Artillery Regiment began May 26, 1775. As Rachel Johnston, "seamster," of Lyndeborough, she bought two lots of land from Nehemiah Rand of Charlestown in 1772 and sold Lot 39, bought from her brother Adam, being called "mantlemaker" in the latter deed.‡ She was presumably a widow in 1780 when she lived in Amherst, N. H.

The will of Rachel Sewell of Lyndeborough was made Feb. 20, 1802, and proved Nov. 13, 1813. To her sister Isabel Carson, \$100. To her nephew John Wellman, \$10. To her nephew Robert Carson, \$10. To Nehemiah Boutwell, \$10. To Sarah Clark, wife of William Clark of Lyndeborough, \$100. To the said William Clark, \$100. Executor: William Clark, gentleman. On March 6, 1817, it was ordered that citation be served on the heirs of the deceased residing in New Hampshire, and service was made on Nehemiah Boutwell, John Wellman and Isabel Carson. A house and ten acres of land were sold to pay the legacies.§ It would seem that Mr. and Mrs. Clark were friends and not relatives.

Probable child:

- vi. MARY; m. James Boutwell who d. in Lyndeborough Feb. 6, 1804. He was chairman of Lyndeborough's Committee of Safety, and custodian of the town's ammunition, kept in the meeting-house loft, during the Revolution. Their son Nehemiah was an heir of Rachel (Johnston) Sewell.

* *Ibid.*, 7: 247.

† *Descendants of Thomas Wellman*, J. W. Wellman, 1918, p. 123.

‡ *Hillsboro Deeds*, 2: 162, 486.

§ *Hillsboro Probate*.

2. ADAM² JOHNSTON (*John*¹) was born about the year 1718, in Scotland or in Ireland, and came to New England with his parents as a young man. He married in Lynn January 13, 1745/6, Abigail Nurse. The Lynn records give his intention to marry Abigail "Molton" under the date of October 6, 1745, which is possibly an error of the clerk's as to the bride's family name rather than a broken engagement so soon before his marriage. He died in Litchfield, Maine, December 17, 1813, aged ninety-five, and his widow Abigail died on the following February 5, aged ninety.

Adam Johnston

Johnston was living in Reading in 1746 when his father deeded him Lot 45 in Salem-Canada, and he and his wife probably moved there soon afterward. He bought Lots 46 and 58 from Elias Taylor on March 17, 1758, and was active in the purchase and sale of other real estate in the Johnston Corner neighborhood. He sold to his sister Rachel seventy-eight acres in 1768,* and Lots 45 and 46 and pew No. 19 in the Lyndeborough meetinghouse to Nathaniel Phelps of Reading in 1771.†

With his father he signed the petition for the incorporation of the town in 1763 and served as moderator and selectman in 1770. He was called "gentleman" in the local records. He was still living in Lyndeborough in 1786 when he and his son Adam were on the town's tax list, but in 1787 with his son and three of his sons-in-law and their families he moved to Smithfield plantation, later named Litchfield, in Maine. Here the old man was known as "Master Johnson" and the tradition persists that he acted as schoolmaster.

Children, baptized in Lyndeborough August 6, 1769:

- i. LYDIA.
- ii. JOHN; m. Abigail Carleton, daughter of Jeremiah and Eunice (Taylor) Carleton of Lyndeborough, who married, secondly, before 1779, Ensign David Putnam. John Johnston was a member of Capt. Levi Spaulding's company of "Minute Men" which left for Cambridge four days after the battle of Lexington, and took part in the battle of Bunker Hill where tradition states that he carried off the field his brother-in-law David Carleton who was mortally wounded. He was in the campaign in New York in the winter of 1776 and possibly died in the service.

* Hillsboro Deeds, 2: 130.

† *Ibid.*, 6: 293; 7: 56.

Children, born in Lyndeborough:

1. *Osgood*, b. May 23, 1772; bapt. with his brother Sept. 17, 1775; m. Betsey ———.
2. *David*, b. Aug. 16, 1774.
3. *Hannah*, b. Feb. 18, 1777; m. Daniel Putnam; d. 1872, aged 96.
4. iii. ADAM, b. about 1752.
- iv. BETTY, b. May 25, 1753; m. Samuel Hutchason; d. in Litchfield, Maine, Feb. 15, 1832.
- v. HANNAH.
- vi. MARY, b. about 1759; m. at Pelham, N. H., Oct. 2, 1778, Nehemiah Hutchinson; d. March 18, 1855, aged 96. One of Capt. Levi Spaulding's "Minute Men" from Lyndeborough, he fought in the battles of Bunker Hill and Trenton, and was later a sergeant in Capt. Spaulding's company. With his father-in-law and brother-in-law and one of his own brothers, Israel Hutchinson, he settled in Smithfield Plantation, later Litchfield, Maine, in 1787.
- vii. LUCY; m. James Campbell of Lyndeborough by 1781. Campbell was also with Capt. Levi Spaulding at Bunker Hill and Trenton. On March 7, 1777, he joined Capt. Amos Morrill's company and served in the campaign against Gen. Burgoyne. He came with his wife's relations to Smithfield in 1787.

3. JAMES² JOHNSTON (*John*¹) was born in Ireland in 1726 and came to Lynn with his parents, later going with them to Lyndeborough. He married on February 17, 1754, Hannah Blake of Falmouth, Maine, and both of them were admitted to the First Church of Falmouth in that year. In 1760 he enlisted in Capt. Benjamin Waite's company in the expedition for the reduction of Canada, his age being given as thirty-four, his birthplace Ireland and his residence Scarborough, which is the adjoining town to Falmouth.*

Johnston returned to Lyndeborough where in 1767 he bought from Joseph Blaney of Salem a home lot of sixty acres, No. 59, "in consideration of a settlement," but he and his wife Hannah sold this lot to William Gordon of Dunstable in 1768. He bought Lot 56 in the second division of the town, mortgaging it to Benjamin Lynde in 1772 and selling the equity to his brother-in-law William Carson in 1773.†

James Jonstone died on March 22, 1773. His widow, Hannah Johnston, renounced administration on his estate and it was granted on May 1, 1773, to Nahum Baldwin of Amherst. The estate was insolvent. William Carson and Zacheus Cutler deposed that "about a month before he died arrangements were made for Mr. William Carson to sell his place and pay his debts."

* Massachusetts Archives, 98: 110.

† Hillsboro Deeds, 2: 248.

James and Hannah Johnston are traditionally said to have had seven sons, all of whom cannot be identified.

Children:

- i. JAMES, "born in Falmouth." He was very probably the James Johnston who was hired by Adam Johnston for service in the Continental Army as shown in the Lyndeborough records.
- ii. JONATHAN (possibly); witness to Adam Johnston's deed in 1773. Had Jonathan been a son of Adam² Johnston, he would presumably have been baptized with Adam's other children in 1769.
- iii. JASPER, b. Jan. 30, 1756; m. in Gorham, Me., Dec. 23, 1784, Rebecca Ross; drowned in the Royal River, North Yarmouth, April, 1795. As "of Lanesborough" he was mustered into Col. Bigelow's regiment in Boston April 27, 1777, for a term of three years. After his marriage he lived in North Yarmouth.
- iv. JOHN, b. Aug. 24, 1758. Either at the same time or shortly after the Adam Johnston family group arrived in Smithfield [Litchfield], a John Johnson settled near Adam and on April 15, 1790, married Ann Taylor. He was drowned in Cobbossee stream March 1, 1810, and his widow married Edward Tibbetts in Litchfield Aug. 21, 1814. He named his oldest daughter Hannah (for his mother?), his oldest son John (for himself), his second daughter Anne (for his wife), his second son James (for his father?) and his third son Adam (for his grandfather and uncle?). Without definite proof, it is highly probable that John Johnson of Litchfield was the son of James Johnston of Lyndeborough and that he came to Litchfield with his uncle and cousins in 1787.
- v. DAVID; m. (1) in Gorham, Me., June 16, 1785, Jenny Whitney; m. (2) in 1797, Rebecca (Ross) Johnson, his brother Jasper's widow. He lived in Gorham, Pownal and North Yarmouth.
- vi. EPHRAIM, bapt. in Lyndeborough March 26, 1769.

4. CAPT. ADAM JOHNSON (*Adam*², *John*¹) was born in Lyndeborough about 1752. He was married in August, 1772, to Mary Hutchason of Lyndeborough, by Rev. Samuel Goodrich. He died in Litchfield, Maine, on February 8, 1832, and she died in Richmond, Maine, on March 15, 1845.

Johnson saw service in the Revolution—three of those short enlistments which made it almost impossible for the military authorities to produce a trained body of troops. He is said to have been at the siege of Boston in 1776, but he was certainly a private in Capt. Josiah Finley's company that marched from Londonderry in September, 1777, and joined the northern Continental Army at Saratoga where he served from October 1 to November 4. He was Quarter Master Sergeant in Capt. William Lee's company, Col. Moses Kelley's regiment, in the expedition to Rhode Island in 1778, being allowed pay from August 6 to August 27 and two days travel time. From July 4 to November 5, 1782, he was Lieutenant of Capt. Jonathan Smith's company of

Rangers, guarding the western frontier. His title of captain was perhaps gained in the militia.

With his father and his brothers-in-law Samuel Hutchason and James Campbell, he moved to Smithfield Plantation, later Litchfield, in the woods of Maine in 1787 and cleared a farm. When the first town meeting after incorporation was held in 1795 he was elected one of the five selectmen.

The deeds through which Johnson obtained his original land in Smithfield are not of record. In 1813 he bought from the executor and heirs of Samuel Pitts, Esq., Lot 49 in Litchfield and gave them a mortgage which was discharged in 1814.* He sold to his son Adam Johnson, Jr., 50 acres in Litchfield in 1827 and other tracts to Stephen and Samuel Jewett, Abijah Richardson, Josiah Smith, John Thurlow, Jr., and David Waire, 1807-1835, so that it seems that his holdings were large.† In these deeds he is called captain, yeoman and gentleman. In his generation the Scotch name Johnston succumbed to the more frequent English name Johnson.

In 1844, when she was ninety-two years old and living in Richmond with one of her children, Mary Johnson applied for a pension. In her petition she lists Adam Johnson's various army services, but some of the particulars are crossed out and in an accompanying certificate it is explained that they "were written down several months before, when the declaration was first prepared" and that "on the day of signing . . . she did not remember those portions." She states that she was Mary Hutchinson and that she was married by Rev. Mr. Goodridge in August, 1772 (1773 crossed out) "she thinks," and that her husband died February 8, 1832. He had been a resident of Lyndeborough, New Hampshire, until 1794 (perhaps another lapse of memory) where seven children were born. In that year he moved to Litchfield, Maine, where three more were born.

Supporting declarations were made by her sister-in-law, Mary (Johnson) Hutchinson, aged 84, Israel Hutchinson of Hallowell, who testifies to the marriage of Adam Johnson and Mary Hutchinson about 1772 and adds the comment, very valuable to us, "she was not a connection of mine," and her son Adam Johnson of Richmond, aged 48, who states that there were nine children older than he and that he had seen his father's commission as lieutenant.

In 1852 Adam Johnson wrote from Richmond that his mother

* Kennebec Deeds, 9: 582, 228.

† *Ibid.*, 6: 329; 11: 135, 150, 484, 648.

had died on March 15, 1845, and that there were six heirs: John Johnson of Ellsworth, aged 70, Robert Johnson of Gardiner, aged 66, William Johnson of Litchfield, aged 60, Adam Johnson of Richmond, aged 56, Mary Goldsmith of Richmond, aged 74, and Elizabeth Richardson of Litchfield, aged 68. Robert Johnson and his sisters Mary and Elizabeth also wrote listing the heirs, the ages varying somewhat from those given by Adam. Elizabeth Richardson gives the additional information that the children who had died were Sally, Lydia, Stephen and Rebecca.*

Children, born in Lyndeborough:

- i. SARAH (Sally), bapt. May 14, 1775; m., int. Feb. 14, 1791, Joseph Neal in Gardiner; d. July 26, 1824. Her ancestry is the subject of this book.
- ii. LYDIA, bapt. May 14, 1775; m., int. June 13, 1792, Lemuel Neal, brother of Joseph, her sister Sarah's husband.
- iii. STEPHEN; m. July 3, 1798, Sarah Jewell; d. before 1852. The land which he and his brothers owned in Litchfield was presumably granted to them by the town as there are no deeds to them covering it. In 1812 James Jewell of Litchfield sold to him "One Saddler's Shop, sets in Stevens Door Yard," for \$70.† He sold to James Bridge of Augusta and Robert G. Shaw of Boston land on the westerly side of Purgatory Pond in Litchfield in 1813, and in 1816 other Litchfield land to Isaac Frost.‡
- iv. MARY, b. about 1778; m. Isaac Goldsmith; living in Richmond in 1852, "aged 74"; d. before 1855.
- v. JOHN, b. about 1780; m. in Castine on Oct. 2, 1808, Abigail Perkins; living in Ellsworth in 1855, "aged 75."
- vi. REBECCA, b. Sept. 28, 1780; m. Oct. 14, 1800, John Plummer; d. April 24, 1837.
- vii. ROBERT, b. about 1782; m. Sept. 23, 1810, Eunice Walker; living in Gardiner, in 1855, "aged 73." He mortgaged 40 acres in Litchfield to James Sheafe of Portsmouth in 1812, and sold other land to Andrew Hall in 1828.§

Born in Litchfield:

- viii. ELIZABETH (Betsey), b. about 1786 ("aged 66" in 1852); m. May 12, 1805, Abijah Richardson; living in Litchfield in 1852; d. March 19, 1855.
- ix. WILLIAM, b. about 1790; living in Litchfield in 1855, "aged 65"; d. unmarried. He mortgaged Litchfield land to James Sheafe of Portsmouth in 1812, and to Isaac Shurtliff of Litchfield in 1818, and gave a mortgage to Robert Brinley of Tyngsborough in 1819.||
- x. ADAM, b. about 1796 ("aged 56" in 1852); m. Mary Godfrey; d. in Richmond on May 1, 1857. He mortgaged 50 acres in Litchfield to Robert Patten in 1829 for \$86.¶

* U. S. Pension Files, New Hampshire, R. 5644.

† Kennebec Deeds, 11: 93.

‡ *Ibid.*, 9: 539; 22: 23.

§ *Ibid.*, 9: 112; 11: 293.

|| *Ibid.*, 9: 116; 10: 160, 226.

¶ *Ibid.*, 11: 311.

II

NURSE, OF SALEM

NURSE

Nurse is a surname which means exactly what it says. It is far from common in England. In January, 1638, a census was taken of the men of county Suffolk "from Sixteen to Threescore yeeres of Age" who were able to bear arms and among those in the parish of Wenhaston was "Fr: Nursie." Francis Nurse, who was in Salem in Massachusetts Bay by 1640, was born about 1618-1620, so he would have fallen within the census age bracket.

Also among the Wenhaston men was one Ezekiel Knightes and a man of this name was admitted an inhabitant of Salem on the 7th day, 6th month, 1637. However he did not apply for "acomodation" [land] until May 18, 1639. This application was generally made without allowing such an interval to pass. Did Knightes go back to England in 1638 and return to Salem in 1639? It is, of course, possible but not very probable. The Wenhaston Ezekiel may have been the father or uncle of the Salem man.*

Some seven miles to the northeast from Wenhaston, in the northeastern part of Suffolk, is the parish of Wrentham where Mr. John Phillips was the parson from 1609 until August 8, 1638, when he was ejected for his nonconformity. Almost immediately he sailed for New England and lived in Salem until November 1, 1640, when he accepted a call to become parson at Dedham. The influence of this Puritan minister could well have spread through the parishes in the neighborhood of Wrentham and as far as Wenhaston. Also, at South Cove, a parish only a mile southeast of Wrentham, an Edward Norse was the constable who took the census in 1638. I feel that these facts are indicative of more than coincidence and that Fr: Nursie is our Salem man. Unfortunately the surviving parish records of Wenhaston begin in 1687.

1. FRANCIS NURSE was born in England between the years 1618 and 1620, according to two of his depositions and his age as recorded at the time of his death. A third deposition, made in 1678, "aged about forty-eight," underestimates his years. He probably came to Salem as a young man with a kinsman or as a servant of some early settler. The first mention of him, lightly

* Banks's *Topographical Dictionary of English Emigrants to New England* says that Ezekiel Knight was from Harleston, co. Norfolk. Also an Ezekiel Knight was apprenticed in 1619 and made free of the Fishmongers Company of London in 1626. Obviously the situation requires more study.

crossed out in the court records, probably by a sensitive descendant, is the presentment on March 31, 1640, of "Francis Nurse a youth for stealing of victualls and for suspicion of breaking a house." *

About the year 1645, Nurse married Rebecca Towne, and for the next thirty years they lived in the more thickly settled part of Salem, "near Skerry's," not far from where the bridge now crosses to Beverly. By trade Nurse was a tray maker, which occupation doubtless included many other wooden household articles, for the demand for trays could hardly have produced an adequate living. In addition he worked a small farm. In 1664 the town granted him 20 acres.

He was frequently in the courts, suing Elin Downing for defamation in 1642, with Thomas Odingsells sentenced to pay a fine or sit in the stocks for defaming Daniel Ray in 1648/9, and suing Jonathan Porter and his wife Eunice for slander in 1654 and obtaining judgment, Eunice Porter making public acknowledgment of her fault. He was also a frequent witness.

Nurse was discharged from training in June, 1656, which may indicate some physical injury as he was much too young to be excused from military service. He was Salem's constable in 1672, served on trial juries in 1673, 1674 (twice), 1675, 1677; 1678, 1679, 1681 and 1683, and on grand juries in 1671 and 1672. In 1678 he and three of his sons took the Oath of Fidelity.

In 1674 a woman named Elizabeth Clungey left Massachusetts Bay leaving goods valued at £6: 13 at the house of Richard Sibley and a child in the home of Francis Nurse "who in charity took the child into his care." The court decided that, after certain of the woman's debts were paid, the goods were to be given to Nurse. Samuel Southwick chose Nurse to be his guardian in 1677. In 1682 he was appointed administrator of the estate of Edmund Bridges, Sr., whose widow was the sister of Rebecca Nurse.

Michael Bowden, Nurse's son-in-law, lived on a farm in Marblehead which he rented from Capt. James Smith, and in 1678 he sued Smith for a debt which he claimed was owed him by Smith's wife Mary who managed her husband's affairs when he was absent. Mary Smith testified that when Bowden came to Boston to settle the accounts between them, Francis Nurse who was with him said "I protest, Michell, the woman speaks nothing but reason and you must Recktify things," a pleasant light on Nurse's character. †

* *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County*, hereafter cited as *Records and Files*, I: 16.

† *Ibid.*, VII: 119.

The first settlers of Salem built up a compact town at the harbor and between the North and South rivers, but within the bounds of the township, toward the northwest, there were several thousand acres of heavily wooded land, and there in the 1630's the General Court or the town made large grants of several hundred acres each to the most prominent political and clerical figures in the colony. One such grant of 300 acres was made on January 11, 1636, to Mr. Townsend Bishop who represented Salem in the General Courts of 1636, 1637 and 1640. During his ownership he cut timber, laid out gardens and orchards and built a large house that is still standing. Mr. Bishop lost his faith in infant baptism and fell out of favor with the Bay government in 1641, sold his Salem estate to Henry Chickering and left the province. Chickering, although he soon moved to Dedham with Parson Phillips, kept the property until 1648 when he disposed of it for £160 to Gov. John Endicott, who in 1653 gave present possession of it to his son John as part of a marriage settlement. The Governor's unwitnessed will and two deeds covering the Bishop farm resulted in family litigation and an appeal to the General Court with the result that the farm was given to the younger John, his heirs and assigns forever. John Endicott, Jr., died, childless, in 1668, leaving his whole estate to his widow, who, six months later, married James Allen, one of the ministers of Boston's First Church. On her death in 1673 she left Allen the Bishop farm and all her other property.

This chain of title is of interest to us because on April 29, 1678, Francis Nurse, an artizan of little importance in the local scheme of things, bought the great Bishop farm for the large sum of £400. The terms of the purchase were unusual for that time. The £400 were not to be paid until twenty-one years had passed, but in the meantime Nurse was to pay a rental of £7 for each of the first twelve years and £10 for each of the remaining nine years. If at the end of the term the amount agreed upon was not paid, the property would revert to Allen, allowance being made for the buildings and improvements which Nurse might have made. However, if any part of the principal sum should be paid before the expiration of the twenty-one years, a proportionate part of the farm was to be free from all obligation to Allen and vest in Nurse. These terms were very favorable to Nurse and before half the time had elapsed a value was created equal to discharging the whole sum due to Allen. Nurse gave a bond, recorded in Suffolk County, reciting these terms, and Allen gave a warranty deed. When success of the scheme was certain, Nurse

gave to his sons and sons-in-law the greater part of the farm, retaining the Bishop homestead for his wife and himself.

When the colony and the town made these early grants of heavily forested land too little attention was paid to accurate boundaries with the result that, as they were cleared and cultivated, the obscurely described grants were found, in some cases, to overlap. Hardly had Nurse been put in possession when conflict of this sort descended on the Bishop three hundred acres. To the east Nurse's neighbor was Zerubabel Endicott, the Governor's younger son, while on the west lay the land of Nathaniel Putnam. Endicott was a disappointed and embittered man, unreconciled to the fact that the entire Bishop farm, once owned by the old Governor, had passed out of the name through the marriage of his brother's widow to Mr. Allen. He entered a claim to a part of the Bishop farm and sued Nurse for trespass. Mr. Allen, however, was the actual defendant, under his warranty, and he found an ally in the aggressive Nathaniel Putnam who feared that if Endicott were successful the Bishop farm, to make up the three hundred acres which the grant demanded, might be pushed into the land which he held by a later and less firm title. Suit succeeded suit and appeal followed appeal, constituting "one of the most memorable and obstinately contested land controversies known to our courts." It was not until the General Court had handed down two decisions in Allen's favor, and Endicott's death in 1683, that peace was restored. "It is not unlikely that hostile feelings toward the Nurses may have engendered in this long quarrel, for the whole community had become more or less involved in the strife." *

In the meantime another controversy over boundaries was brewing at the northern confines of Salem Village parish. In 1636, the General Court decreed that the bounds of the towns of Salem and Ipswich should extend six miles into the country, and later, when the Village was being settled, the Court passed an order extending its bounds to the Ipswich river, beyond the six-mile limit. Ipswich was also making grants in its back country and a village was taking shape known first as New Meadows, the Court giving authorization for its establishment in 1643. For a few years, while Salem Village and New Meadows were closely knit settlements, there was little or no conflict over the ownership of the forested lands which lay between them, but in 1658 the Court incorporated New Meadows as the town of Topsfield and included

* For a more detailed account, see *Salem Witchcraft, with an Account of Salem Village*, Charles W. Upham, Boston, 1867.

within it part of the land already cleared and settled by Salem Villagers, notably John Putnam and his sons. Topsfield disputed the titles given by Salem and claimed the land as part of its commons. On the Topsfield side the Towne family, brothers and nephews of Rebecca Nurse, and Isaac Easty, husband of Rebecca's sister Mary, were most active in the resulting conflict which again, as in the case of the Bishop farm, involved many of the Salem Villagers and may have increased the unhappy prejudice against the Nurses.

In 1692 the black cloud of the witchcraft delusion descended upon Salem Village. The almost universal belief which lay behind it, the peculiar circumstances in the Village which inspired it, the delinquent accusers and the wicked men and women who urged them on, the barbarous trials in which guilt was presumed and manifest innocence unavailing and the final scenes at Gallows Hill—all these have been the subject of works of history and of fiction. Of all the victims Rebecca Nurse and her sister Mary Easty have, because of the dignity and nobility of character which they displayed from beginning to tragic end, gained the sympathy of many of their contemporaries, even firm believers in witchcraft, and of posterity.

Rebecca Nurse was seventy-one years old, she had borne and brought up eight children, she was a member of the Salem church, she was deaf and an invalid. Soon after the first unfortunate women were accused and subjected to the examination of the magistrates, the names of other suspects were whispered about the Village, among them that of Rebecca Nurse. Her friends Israel and Elizabeth Porter, the latter the sister of one of the examiners, John Hathorne, went to see her. "We found her in a weak and low condition in body, as she told us, and had been sick almost a week, and we asked how it was otherwise with her and she said she blessed God for it she had more of his presence in this sickness than sometimes she have had, but not so much as she desired . . . and then of her own accord she began to speak of the affliction that was amongst them and in particular of Mr. Parris his family and how she was grieved for them . . . she pitied them with all her heart and went to God for them. But she said she heard that there was persons spoke of that were as innocent as she was she believed, and, after much to this purpose, we told her we heard that she was spoken of also. 'Well,' she said, 'if it be so the will of the Lord be done.' She sat still awhile being as it were amazed, and then she said 'Well, as to (this) thing I am as innocent as the child unborn, but surely, she said, what sin hath

God found out in me unrepented of that He should lay such an affliction on me in my old age.' And according to our best observation we could not discern that she knew what we came for before we told her." *

A warrant was issued for her arrest, upon the complaint of Edward Putnam and Jonathan Putnam, signed by John Hathorne and Jonathan Corwin, Assistants, and addressed to George Herrick, Marshal of Essex, on March 23, 1691/2, and on the next day Herrick endorsed the warrant "I have apprehended ye body of Rebeca Nurse and brought her to ye house of Leut. Nath: Ingersal where shee is in Custody," and the examination took place on that same day.

The examination conformed to those which had already taken place. To the accompaniment of "great noyses by the afflicted" the magistrates put their questions which assumed guilt, and the distressed old woman gave her answers: "I can say before my Eternal Father I am innocent and God will clear my innocency," "I am as clear as the child unborn," "I have got nobody to look to but God." When one of the judges said to her "It is very awful for all to see these agonies . . . and yet to see you stand with dry eyes when there are so many wet," she replied "You do not know my heart." Needless to say, Rebecca was committed to the Salem jail at the close of this travesty of judicial procedure. On April 11 she was transferred to the jail in Boston together with her sister Sarah Cloyes and all others whose examination had taken place before and after hers.

Rebecca was indicted on June 2, having been brought back from Boston to Salem, and on that day she was twice put to the humiliation of a physical examination by a jury of women who found what a majority of them believed to be a mark of the devil. One of the women dissented, however, and on June 28 Rebecca sent a petition to the court, saying that that woman, "the Moast Antiente, skilfull, prudent person of them all" did express herself as contrary to the rest, and praying that some other most wise and skillful women such as Mrs. Higginson, Sr., Mrs. Durkstone, Mrs. Woodbury and Mrs. Porter examine her before she was brought to trial, but the court disregarded this plea.

At the trial on June 29, testimony of the usual kind, in deposition form, was used against her. The minutes of the trial have not survived, but the depositions have. The accusers were Ann Putnam, Jr., Mary Walcott, Elizabeth Hubbard and Abigail Wil-

* *Topsfield Historical Society*, XIII: 53, transposed to modern spelling.

liams, four of the hysterical girls, and Sarah Bibber, Rev. Samuel Parris, Nathaniel Ingersoll, Thomas Putnam, John Putnam, Sr., Edward Putnam, Sarah Holton, Ann Putnam, Sr., John and Hannah Putnam. In her defense her son Samuel Nurse and her son-in-law John Tarbell testified to conflicting testimony of Ann Putnam, Sr., and Mercy Lewis, and the coaching of the child Ann Putnam, Jr. Her daughters Rebecca Preston and Mary Tarbell told of her "infirmity of body" which the jury of women feared "it should be something else." Her daughter-in-law Sarah Nurse had observed trickery in the conduct of Goody Bibber, pricking herself with pins and crying out that Goody Nurse pricked her. Her neighbor Nathaniel Putnam, Sr., stated that "her life and conversation hath been according to her profession." Finally Israel and Elizabeth Porter and thirty-six other Salem Village men and women signed a declaration defending her character—"we have knowne her for many years." All to no avail.

The jury at first returned a verdict of "not guilty," but the judges demanded whether they had considered one expression of the prisoner's—when confronted with Goody Hobbs, a confessed witch, she had muttered "she is one of us." The jury retired, but returned to ask Rebecca what her remark had meant, and, receiving no answer, reversed their verdict. She was then condemned to die. Later she said that "being something hard of hearing and full of grief," she had not heard the question and that she had only meant that she and Goody Hobbs had been together in the prison. The governor, Sir William Phips, granted her a reprieve but the accusers renewed their outcry and he was prevailed upon to withdraw it.

On July 3, Rebecca Nurse was brought to the Salem Meeting-house in chains, placed in the middle of the center aisle before a crowded congregation and formally excommunicated by Rev. Nicholas Noyes, supported by Rev. John Higginson and the lay elders, thereby notifying their God that she was to be abandoned to the devil and eternally damned. On July 19 she was driven in a cart with four other of the women who had been convicted to Gallows hill and there hanged from a tree by the common hangman. "These humble, harmless, innocent people who experienced that fearful and pitiless persecution had to drink of as bitter a cup . . . as ever was presented to human lips."

Persistent tradition says that at midnight Francis Nurse, his four sons and four sons-in-law, went to the hill and found the body of the wife and mother in the common grave in which it had been flung and carried it by deserted roads and across the fields to

her own home, where they buried her in ground consecrated by their grief.*

Francis Nurse survived until November 22, 1695, "aged 77." On December 4, 1694, he had signed a document saying that his whole estate should be given to his eight children, equally divided in quantity and quality, to their proper use. To his grandson John Nurse, son of his son John, £10. He retained his bed, bedding both woolen and linen, a crop of corn and fodder to winter his mare, and a chest. His children were to give him comfortable maintenance and to contribute to his decent burial. The witnesses were William Raiment, Israel Porter and Exercise Conant. The four sons and four sons-in-law added their signatures to that of the old father, and on December 23, 1695, the eight men appeared in court to give their consent to the provisions of the document.† The house in which Francis and Rebecca Nurse lived still stands and is maintained by the present owner, The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Children, born in Salem:

- i. REBECCA; m. April 15, 1669, Thomas Preston who d. in Salem in 1697, his widow Rebecca and son John being granted administration on Oct. 4, 1697; she d. in 1719. In 1689/90 his father-in-law, Francis Nurse, granted to him 52 acres of the Bishop farm.‡
- ii. SARAH; m. in Topsfield, Dec. 15, 1669, Michael Bowden, later of Marblehead. He, planter, conveyed to Samuel Nurse for £4 his wife's share in the Francis Nurse house and her proportion, about 15 acres, in his estate on Dec. 5, 1695.§
2. iii. JOHN.
3. iv. SAMUEL.
- v. MARY; m. Oct. 25, 1678, John Tarbell, a double wedding with her younger sister Elizabeth. He died in 1715 in his 63d year, and she on June 28, 1749, in her 96th year. On May 18, 1698, Francis² Nurse deeded to Tarbell his share in his father's lands, 15 acres, for £7.|| With Samuel² Nurse, Tarbell sold to John Curtice of Topsfield 10 acres which they had bought from Mr. Zerubabel Endicott, on Nov. 6, 1701.¶
- vi. ELIZABETH; m. Oct. 25, 1678, William Russell. They moved to Reading, but returned to Salem in 1694.
4. vii. FRANCIS, b. Feb. 3, 1660/1.
5. viii. BENJAMIN, b. Jan. 26, 1665.

2. JOHN² NURSE (*Francis*¹) was born in Salem about the year

* *History of Witchcraft and Salem Village*, Charles W. Upham, Boston, 1867; *Dictionary of American Biography*, article Nurse, Rebecca; *Rebecca Nurse, Saint but Witch Victim*, C. S. Tapley, 1930.

† Essex Probate, 305: 103-105.

‡ Essex Deeds, 8: 151.

§ *Ibid.*, 11: 176.

|| *Ibid.*, 13: 2.

¶ *Ibid.*, 14: 245.

1645. He married Elizabeth Smith in Salem on November 1, 1672, and she died October 22, 1673, ten days after the birth of her son. John Nurse married secondly Elizabeth Very on August 17, 1677. He died early in December, 1719, and she was living, his widow, in 1723.

On November 26, 1716, he and his wife Elizabeth quitclaimed to Benjamin Verrey their interest in the estate of her father Samuel Very, deceased.*

The will of John Nurse of Salem, yeoman, was made November 12, and proved December 15, 1719. To his eldest son John Nurse "who lives in Framingham," £7. To his granddaughter Deborah Nurse, daughter of his deceased son Samuel, £20. To his wife, his whole estate during her life. After his wife's death, one-half of the buildings at his homestead to his son Benjamin, the other half in equal shares to his five other children, Jonathan, Benjamin (*sic*), Elizabeth Douty, Sarah Twist and Hannah Very.†

Child, born in Salem Village, by first wife:

- i. JOHN, b. Oct. 12, 1673; m. in Sherburn Feb. 21, 1699/1700, Elizabeth Gale. They lived in Framingham. The court granted him a share in the estate of his maternal grandfather, John Smith of Salem, in 1680.

John Nurse of Framingham, husbandman, made his will Oct. 14, 1729, and it was proved June 15, 1747. He directed that his and his wife's funeral expenses and debts be paid by his son John, his executor. To his wife Elizabeth, one-half of his dwelling house, barn and lands in Framingham, and all of his personal estate in lieu of dower while she remained his widow. He had given to his son John by deed of gift one-half of his house, barn and lands in Framingham and John was to have the other half after the death of the testator's wife; also all of his cattle and utensils of husbandry. His son John was to pay to the testator's daughters Sarah, Elizabeth, Mehetabel and Thomezin Nurse £40 apiece. To his four daughters all of his household goods (after the death or marriage of their mother) and they were to live in one end of his dwelling house so long as they remained unmarried. Witnesses: Nathan Stone, Simon Goddard, Edward Goddard. On June 10, 1747, John Nurse, executor, was given a receipt by William Weston of Hopkinton for his wife Sarah, Thomas Biglow of Marlborough for his wife Elizabeth, John Belknap of Westborough for his daughter Mehetabel, only surviving child of his late wife Mehetabel, and Jedediah Biglow of Douglas for his wife Thamesin.‡

By second wife:

- ii. ELIZABETH, b. March 18, 1677/8; m. Dec. 4, 1707, Joseph Doughty.
- iii. SAMUEL, b. Aug. 20, 1679; m. June 21, 1718, Deborah Hill, possibly a second wife; d. Oct. 3, 1719, leaving a daughter, *Deborah*, men-

* *Ibid.*, 31: 119.

† Essex Probate, 313: 77.

‡ Middlesex Probate, 16102.

tioned in her grandfather's will. He was a mariner. A Deborah Nurse, probably the widow, married Joseph Rand, Jr., July 15, 1731.

- iv. SARAH, b. Nov. 10, 1680; m. Dec. 20, 1699, Peter Twiss, Jr. On Dec. 14, 1723, they quitclaimed to her brothers Jonathan and Benjamin Nurse her share in the estate of their father.*
- v. JONATHAN, b. May 3, 1682; m., int. March 13, 1713/4, Martha Twiss; living in 1743.
- vi. JOSEPH, b. Sept. 20, 1683; d. young.
- vii. BENJAMIN, b. Feb. 20, 1686; m., int. Sept. 4, 1714, Sarah Boston of Lynn; living in 1736.
- viii. HANNAH, b. June 22, 1687; m. Oct. 13, 1709, John Very.

3. SAMUEL² NURSE (*Francis*¹) was born in Salem about 1649. He married Mary Smith on April 5, 1677. She was the second of the three daughters of John Smith, the Quaker, who married three sons of Francis Nurse. He died in January, 1719/20.

On June 24, 1696, Samuel bought from Ephraim Sheldon 3 acres of upland and swamp in Salem Village for £9, and a week later he sold one-half of it for £4: 10: 0 to his brother-in-law John Tarbell.† He and his brother John agreed to divide certain Nurse land in 1700.‡ He conveyed to his son Samuel Nurse, Jr., 15 acres and the house where his father, Francis Nurse, had lived, with the barn and the orchards in 1702/3.§

The will of Samuel Nurse of Salem was made March 25, 1715, and proved February 2, 1719(20). To his son Samuel he left the house and land already given him by deed of gift, four acres called the spring meadow and other lots of meadow and woodland. To his son George, the house and land already given him by deed or gift, one acre in the Wolfpen meadows and £10. To his son Ebenezer, the remainder of his land after his and his wife's decease, but Ebenezer was to have one-half of these lands, buildings, stock and implements immediately upon his death. To his wife, the household goods. Ebenezer was to set off two acres for daughter Daggett whereon she could build a house. To daughters Mary Daggett and Rebecca Kenney, £30 apiece. To Margaret Nurse, daughter of his brother Benjamin, £10. Executors: his wife and son Ebenezer.||

Children, born in Salem Village:

- 6. i. SAMUEL, b. Jan. 7, 1677/8.

* Essex Deeds, 45: 33.

† *Ibid.*, 11: 171; 12: 187.

‡ *Ibid.*, 14: 197.

§ *Ibid.*, 15: 201.

|| Essex Probate, 313: 88.

- ii MARGARET, b. Feb. 24, 1679/80; d. Dec. 5, 1700.
- 7. iii. GEORGE, b. July 29, 1682.
- iv. MARY, b. May 25, 1685; m. Nov. 29, 1711, William Daggett.
- v. REBECCA, b. Sept. 15, 1688; m. Dec. 21, 1709, Jonathan Kenney.
- 8. vi. EBENEZER, b. Aug. 5, 1693.

4. FRANCIS² NURSE (*Francis*¹) was born in Salem on February 3, 1660/1. He married Sarah Tarbell on January 15, 1685, in Salem. He died in Reading on February 5, 1715/6. The widow Sarah Nurse was still living in 1733 when her son Francis died, and in 1736 when she was mentioned in an account filed by her daughter-in-law Martha Putnam. She was probably the Sarah Nurse for appraising whose estate George Flint was paid on March 26, 1747.*

Francis Nurse was admitted to administer the estate of his late father, Francis Nurse of Reading, on April 17, 1715 (*sic*), Joseph Burnap and Nathaniel Bachellour, both of Reading, being his sureties. The family homestead of 72 acres was valued at £200 and his "military arms" at £2. The dower of the widow, Sarah Nurse, was set off on June 12, 1716, and the other heirs, the children, were listed—Francis, Benjamin, Jonathan, Josiah, Sarah, Joshua, Caleb, Nathaniel and Abigail. Two-thirds of the farm and other lands were assigned by the probate court to the eldest son, Francis Nurse, he to pay to his brothers and sisters the sums which the judge had allotted to them. Francis entered his account on September 19, 1717.†

Children, born in Reading:

- i. FRANCIS, b. March 10, 1686; d. March 15, 1686.
- ii. FRANCIS, b. Jan. 3, 1688; m. Jan. 2, 1716/7, Martha Hartshorn; d. May 15, 1733. The widow Martha Nurse m. secondly Feb. 24, 1736, Edward Putnam of Middleton.

Administration on the estate of Francis Nurse of Reading, husbandman, was granted to Martha Nurse, widow, on June 18, 1733, Ebenezer Walcott and Nathaniel Stow being her sureties. The homestead of 80 acres, including his mother's thirds, was valued at £500, and he had personal estate of £212. Martha Nurse presented an account on March 14, 1734/5, and, as "Martha Putnam formerly Martha Nurse," a second account on Jan. 26, 1736/7. The estate was ordered distributed on March 28, 1743. Two-thirds of the real estate was assigned to Jonathan and Timothy Nurse, sons of Francis, and Jonathan was to pay to Timothy £68: 12: 3 and to his sister Sarah Nurse £71: 12: 3, her full share. In 1746 the widow's dower, probably that of the children's grandmother Sarah Nurse, had fallen in and was appraised at £499, and in 1748 real estate "formerly set off to his Wedow now also Deced," presumably Martha Putnam, was also to be divided.‡

* Middlesex Probate, No. 16112.

† *Ibid.*, No. 16097.

‡ *Ibid.*, No. 16098.

- iii. BENJAMIN, b. Jan. 28, 1689/90; m. (1) Dec. 24, 1713, Elizabeth Roberts who d. in Harvard May 29, 1739, aged about 50; m. (2) at Harvard May 13, 1740, widow Hannah Atherton; d. Jan. 6, 1761.

The will of Benjamin Nurse of Rutland was made April 9, 1760, and proved Dec. 4, 1775. He mentions the marriage agreement made with his wife Hannah, by which he left her only a bed and bedding and the choice of his cows. To his son Joshua, all his lands, meadows and buildings, one-half of a saw-mill, three-quarters of the saw, one-half of the irons belonging thereto and the mill privilege, his live-stock, tools, wearing apparel, cash and writings, and Joshua is to be executor. To his son Benjamin, £6: 13: 4. To his grandchildren, children of his daughter Elizabeth Daby, 6s. To each of his daughters Sarah Marble and Mary Powers, £4 and one-half of the household goods after his wife has taken what was agreed to. Witnesses: Paul Moore, Boaz Moore, Humphrey Moore.*

- iv. JONATHAN, b. March 4, 1691/2; m. Jan. 27, 1713, Abigail Hornden who m. secondly March 8, 1720, Daniel Eames of Woburn; d. Nov. 26, 1717.

Abigail Nurse, her surety being Jonathan Harndon of Reading, was appointed administratrix of the estate of her late husband Jonathan Nurse of Reading on October 13, 1718. There was due from his father's estate £11: 17: 0.†

- v. JOSIAH, b. Sept. 9, 1694; m. Dec. 20, 1716, Mary Eaton who m. secondly Jan. 1, 1718(9), Samuel Francis of Medford; d. in Reading April 4, 1718.

- vi. SARAH, b. Jan. 27, 1696/7; m. April 18, 1718, Henry Sawyer.

- vii. JOSHUA, b. July 15, 169—; d. June 8, 1717.

- viii. CALEB, b. Jan. 15, 1701/2; d. Aug. 4, 1727. With the consent of his mother Sarah Nurse and of his brother Francis, Benjamin Nurse was appointed to administer the estate of Caleb Nurse, single man and cordwainer, of Reading on Aug. 11, 1727. His mother, his brother-in-law Henry Sawyer, his sister-in-law Martha Nurse and Daniel Eames as guardian of his two nieces, consented to Benjamin Nurse's account in 1736.‡

- ix. NATHANIEL, b. about 1704 and named in the administration papers of his father's estate in 1716; d. May 29, 1717.

- x. ABIGAIL, b. about 1704.

5. BENJAMIN² NURSE (*Francis*¹) was born in Salem on January 26, 1666. He married Tamesin Smith on February 21, 1688, in Salem. She died before February 16, 1713/4, when he married in Framingham widow Elizabeth (Sawtelle) Morse of Watertown.

Benjamin Nurse of Framingham, yeoman, made his will August 1, 1735. It was proved February 13, 1748. To his wife Elizabeth, in lieu of dower, he left the use of one-half of his dwelling house and barn, his orchards and lands in Framingham so long as she remained his widow; also the best bed and furniture and warming pan, two cows and one-half of the household goods in the dwelling room. She was to be provided with fire wood and

* Worcester Probate, Series A 43858.

† Middlesex Probate, No. 16105.

‡ *Ibid.*, No. 16093.

an "Able and Gentle horse." Also, she was to have one-fourth of the corn, meat and swine belonging to him at his decease. To complete their portions, of which they had already had a part, he left to his five eldest children certain sums to be paid them by his son Aaron: to his eldest son Benjamin, £5; to his son William, £15; to his son Ebenezer, £5; to his daughter Thamerzin Nurse, £30; to his daughter Elizabeth Philips, now wife of Theophilus Philips of Hopkinton, £30. To his son Aaron, "to Enable him to Subsist in the World (being very Weakly) and to Pay the Legacies," all his houses and lands in Framingham, cattle, utensils of husbandry, household goods and all other personal estate, Aaron to pay his just debts, his funeral expenses and the funeral expenses of his wife Elizabeth, if she be his widow at the time of her death. Executors: wife and son Aaron Nurse. Witnesses: Benjamin Ball, Ebenezer Harrington, Gideon Bridges. In a letter dated at Framingham January 27, 1748, Elizabeth Nurse addressed Hon. Samuel Danforth, Judge of Probate, expressing her satisfaction with the will. Ebenezer Harrington acted as surety for Aaron Nurse in a bond for £400.*

Children, born in Framingham:

- i. TAMESIN, b. Nov. 13, 1691; unmarried in 1735 but a Tamesin Nurse (possibly she or a niece) m. Feb. 23, 1738, Ebenezer Hemenway.
- ii. BENJAMIN, b. Jan. 20, 1694; m. (1) July 12, 1717, Elizabeth Haven; m. (2) June 2, 1737, Mary Belknap.
- iii. WILLIAM, b. March 8, 1696; m. in Shrewsbury on Dec. 12, 1723, Rebecca Fay of Westborough; both d. in Westborough, she on June 22, 1776, and he on April 15, 1779.
William Nurse was of Shrewsbury when he made his will on Jan. 3, 1758, but of Westborough when he died, the will being proved on June 7, 1779. To his wife Rebekah, all of his household goods and part of house, etc. To son Daniel, all his lands in Shrewsbury and elsewhere, reserving house-room for daughters Lydia and Rebekah as long as they remain single and "in such a weakly condition." To son Daniel, all quick stock, husbandry tools, one-half of clothes, and his money bonds. To second son Benjamin, all cooper's tools and one-half of clothing. To daughters Mary, Lydia, Rebekah and Zerviah. "All my Books of Divinity Shall be Equally Divided among all my children." Executors: wife Rebekah and eldest son Daniel.†
- iv. ELIZABETH, b. Sept. 18, 1698; m. Theophilus Philips of Hopkinton.
- v. EBENEZER, b. March 27, 1700/1; m. April 14, 1720, Mercy Haven.
- vi. MARGARET, b. April 24, 1703; legatee of her uncle Samuel Nurse in 1715, but d. *s.p.* before her father made his will in 1735.
- vii. MOSES, b. in 1704/5; not mentioned in his father's will.
- viii. AARON, b. Jan. 1, 1708; probably the Aaron Nurse who d. at Westborough Dec. 31, 1782.

* *Ibid.*, No. 16092.

† Worcester Probate, Series A 43954.

6. SAMUEL³ NURSE (*Samuel*,² *Francis*¹) was born in Salem Village, on January 7, 1677/8. He married Dorothy Faulkner on November 25, 1708. He died in April or May, 1740.

His uncle John Nurse deeded to him 5 acres at Hadlock's bridge on April 19, 1699, and, as stated in the account of his father, he came into possession of his grandfather's house, barn and orchards in 1702/3.*

The will of Samuel Nurse of Salem was made March 24 and admitted to probate May 19, 1740. To his wife Dorothy he left one-third of his real estate and all his household goods to dispose of among their children. To his sons Samuel and Francis, all his lands and meadows in Salem or elsewhere, and all his buildings, stock and utensils. To his daughter Abigail, £90. To his daughter Eunice, enough to make up £90 with what she had already received. Executors: the two sons. Witnesses: Abraham Goodall, Cornelius Tarbell, Benjamin Putnam.

Children, born in Salem Village:

- i. ABIGAIL, b. May 23, 1710; m. April 16, 1734, John Jacobs, Jr.
- ii. REBECCA, b. June 23, 1712; d. Sept. 22, 1734.
- iii. SAMUEL, b. April 25, 1715; m. (1), int. Dec. 29, 1739, Elizabeth Kellogg of Hadley who d. in Bolton, where they lived, Oct. 14, 1751, in her 31st year; m. (2) Abigail Barnard who d. Sept. 9, 1820, aged 86; he d. in Bolton in 1790.

The will of Samuel Nurse, gentleman, made Nov. 2, 1788, and proved Nov. 16, 1790, left a large estate to his widow Abigail, his sons John, David, Jonathan, Asa, Benjamin and Barnard, and his daughters Elizabeth Merriam, Sarah Moore, Eunice Houghton, Phebe Atherton, Abigail Holman and Lucy Fairbanks. Executor: son Benjamin Nurse, who was a physician and whose bondsmen were Ephraim Fairbanks, Esq., and Silas Holman.†

- iv. FRANCIS, b. June 6, 1717; m. (1) March 19, 1739/40, Eunice Putnam who d. Aug. 21, 1766; m. (2) Sept. 10, 1769, Hannah Endicott who d. Aug. 29, 1791; he d. April 9, 1780.

Francis Nurse and Eunice, his wife, conveyed to their uncle Benjamin Hutchinson of Bedford land inherited from their honored grandfather, Benjamin Hutchinson, late of Salem,‡ on Dec. 2, 1743.§ This deed indicates that Eunice (Putnam) Nurse was a daughter of Cornelius and Sarah (Hutchinson) Putnam.

Francis Nurse of Danvers, yeoman, made his will Feb. 17, 1780, and it was proved in the following May. He left to his wife Hannah all the indoor estate which she brought with her and the income of one-third of his real estate. To his son Benjamin, all of his land. To his son Peter 20s., and to his son Philip £30, to be paid by Benjamin. To his daughters Phebe, Abigail and Ede, a feather bed and bedding and £16 each. To his son Allen, £16 when he shall come of age. Executor: son Benjamin Nurse.||

* Essex Deeds, 13: 253; 15: 201.

† Worcester Probate, Series A 43941.

‡ See p. 73.

§ Essex Deeds, 86: 73.

|| Essex Probate, 354: 125.

- v. EUNICE, b. about 1719; m. Dec. 13, 1739, Benjamin Porter.
- vi. PHEBE, b. June 8, 1721; d. Nov. 23, 1729.

7. GEORGE³ NURSE (*Samuel*,² *Francis*¹) was born in Salem Village on July 29, 1682. He married Lydia Hutchinson on April 29, 1709. He died in Lynn on March 1, 1759, "in his 77th year" and she survived until April 3, 1764, "in her 79th year."

In 1706 his father had deeded to him his portion of land, lying partly in Salem and partly in Lynn, which he had purchased in partnership with Benjamin Putnam and John Tarbell from James Menzie. There was a house on the property which George acquired by this deed. In 1714 he bought 5 additional acres from Tarbell, and from Samuel Pudney 5 acres in Mr. Humphrey's farm at Broad Meadow, both in Lynn. In 1715 James Aborne of Lynn and John Aborne of Charlestown sold him 18 acres of their Lynn lands. Also he acquired from Israel Putnam 50 acres partly in Salem and partly in Lynn in 1721, and from John Wellman, in 1730, 40 acres in Lynn and 22 acres partly in each of the two towns.*

The will of George Nurse of Lynn, husbandman, was made October 28, 1757, and proved March 19, 1759. To his wife Lydia he left the improvement of one-third of his real estate for her life, all his indoor movables, and directed that a good cow be kept for her by his executor. To his daughters Elizabeth Twiss, Mary Twiss and Lydia Aborne, £5 apiece, and to his daughter Abigail Johnson, £4. The residue went to his son and executor George Nurse. Witnesses: William Collins, Job Collins, Samuel Collins.†

Children, born in Lynn:

- i. ELIZABETH, b. July 8, 1710; m. Dec. 8, 1743, Jonathan Twiss.
- ii. MARY, b. April 5, 1712; m., int. March 17, 1735/6, Nathaniel Walden; m. (2), int. Dec. 10, 1747, John Twiss. As Mary Walden, she and her father were administrators of her first husband's estate and conveyed land in 1742 and 1744, and with her father and her new husband John Twiss, Jr., of Salem, in 1748.‡
- iii. GEORGE, b. June 30, 1715; m. (1), int. Sept. 5, 1747, Hannah Wallis who d. in Lynn on Oct. 15, 1765, aged 36; m. (2) Dec. 27, 1795, Rebecca (Gowing) Twiss, the widow of Benjamin Twiss of Salem whom she had married on Oct. 11, 1770; d. in Lynnfield on Aug. 21, 1799, aged 87; the widow Rebecca died in Lynnfield on Oct. 31, 1822. It would seem probable that he had an unrecorded wife between 1765 and 1795.

Administration on the estate of George Nurse of Lynnfield, yeoman, was granted to John Brown on Sept. 3, 1799, and the

* Essex Deeds, 39: 26; 27: 252; 28: 14; 31: 49; 38: 160; 55: 205, 206.

† Essex Probate, 336: 136-137.

‡ Essex Deeds, 84: 115, 150; 85: 182; 92: 95.

dower of his widow Rebecca Nurse was set off on Dec. 2, 1799.*
John Brown was presumably his son-in-law as John Brown and Mary Nurse were married in Lynn on Oct. 15, 1767.

- iv. ABIGAIL, b. Sept. 7, 1724; m. Jan. 13, 1745/6, Adam Johnson. (*See Johnston.*)
- v. LYDIA, b. Aug. 13, 1728; m. July 2, 1747, Joseph Aborn.

8. EBENEZER³ NURSE (*Samuel*,² *Francis*¹) was born in Salem Village on August 5, 1693. He married Elizabeth Mitchell on January 4, 1721/2. His second wife was Amy (Upton) Cross, widow of Michael Cross of Boston, whom he married January 9, 1751/2. He died December 30, 1765, and his widow survived him until August 10, 1771.

The will of Ebenezer Nurse of Danvers, husbandman, was made September 5, 1762, and proved April 8, 1766. To his wife he left all the household stuff that she brought with her and £6 in case she gave up her right of dower. To his eldest daughter Sarah, 10s. To his daughter Martha, £14. To his daughter Elizabeth, 10s. To his daughter Mary, a cow, a bed and its furniture and the privilege of the east room of his house until she married. To his son Ebenezer, all the land purchased from Edmond Putnam except the house and 5 acres adjoining which he left to Ebenezer's wife Hannah, to dispose of among her children by Ebenezer. Residue to his son Caleb, the executor. Witnesses: Samuel Hilton, Francis Nurse, Gideon Putnam.†

Children, born in Salem Village:

- i. SARAH, b. Nov. 14, 1722; m. April 14, 1742, Samuel Putnam.
- ii. MARTHA, b. Nov. 11, 1724; m. May 18, 1749, Archelaus Putnam, Jr.
- iii. ELIZABETH, b. Sept. 15, 1726; m. (1) June 20, 1745, Caleb Putnam, Jr.; m. (2) Timothy Putnam; m. (3) Richard Upham. With her three Putnam sons, she and Upham moved to Nova Scotia about 1761. Her descendants believe that they descend from American Loyalists "which only shows how superficial evidence can distort genealogy and history."‡
- iv. EBENEZER, b. Sept. 2, 1728; m. Nov. 29, 1750, Hannah Rea.
- v. CALEB, b. July 11, d. Oct. 7, 1732.
- vi. ELI, b. Nov. 1, 1733; d. Feb. 4, 1733/4.
- vii. MARY, b. Aug. 3, 1735; d. unmarried Aug. 15, 1802.
- viii. CALEB, bapt. May 30, 1739.

* Essex Probate, 367: 83, 336.

† *Ibid.*, 343: 42.

‡ *History of the Putnam Family*, Eben Putnam, Salem. 1891, p. 255.

III

TOWNE, OF TOPSFIELD

TOWNE

Since 1927, when I published *The Ancestry of Lieut. Amos Towne*, The Norfolk Record Society has produced many volumes of documentary material dealing with that county, including probate indices, subsidy rolls, etc., but nothing in them throws further light on the Towne family of Great Yarmouth. The name Towne is not common, but some of the name are found in southern Lincolnshire and northern Suffolk, and, as Great Yarmouth is on the Suffolk border, our Townes may have come from the latter county. This would seem to be made more probable by the fact that at Somerleyton, in northern Suffolk, an Edmund Towne married Elizabeth Sporle on July 9, 1581. Somerleyton was the parish of John Blyssing [Blessing] who may have been the grandfather of Joan Blessing of Great Yarmouth who married William Towne, the emigrant. As William and Joan Towne named their second son Edmund it is, I think, a proper guess that Edmund Towne, the Somerleyton bridegroom, was William Towne's uncle. John Towne, the father of the emigrant, was not a freeman of Great Yarmouth nor were any others of the name, and his status was doubtless very simple.

1. JOHN¹ TOWNE is represented in the registers of the parish of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, co. Norfolk, by the baptism of two children and his later marriage to Margaret Walden on September 1, 1600. The first of the children baptized is entered as son of John and *Alice* Towne and the second as son of John and *Elizabeth* Towne. The clerk may have made an error in writing the mother's name in one case or the other, or John Towne may have had two wives in close succession. However, the late Mr. Bower Marsh, a highly experienced English genealogist, has said that he has found Alice and Elizabeth used interchangeably more than once.

Children:

- i. ARTHUR, bapt. Aug. 28, 1597.
2. ii. WILLIAM, bapt. March 18, 1598(9).

2. WILLIAM² TOWNE (*John*¹) was baptized at Great Yarmouth on March 18, 1598(9). He married Joan Blessing at St. Nicholas church, Great Yarmouth, on April 25, 1620. In that church they had six children baptized between 1621 and 1634

and some time thereafter, probably in 1635, they emigrated to New England and settled in Salem where many Great Yarmouth people had preceded them. William Towne died in Topsfield about 1673 and his wife probably survived until about 1682 when their children divided the Towne property.

The first record of William Towne in America appears in the town book of Salem in 1640 when he was granted "a little neck of Land right over against his house on the other side of the river." In the same year he sued John Cook in what seems to have been a boundary dispute and obtained a verdict and costs. It is probable that Towne was in Salem some years before 1640, however.

In 1651 Towne purchased land in the neighboring town of Topsfield from William Paine of Ipswich. This farm contained forty acres "part of which is plow land, another part is meadow, another part is upland unplowed, all lying together," bounded by William Howard toward the east, Walter Roper on the north and a "Sertaine River" toward the south or southwest. There were also included two acres on the south side of the river.

He sold his Salem property to Henry Bullock in 1652 and bought additional land at Topsfield in 1656. In 1660 when he was testifying in a lawsuit his age was estimated at three score years.* He was made a commoner of Topsfield in 1661, and his wife was dismissed from the Salem church to that of Topsfield in 1664. On the occasion of the marriage of his son, Joseph, to Phebe Perkins, daughter of Deacon Thomas Perkins, in 1663, William Towne deeded two-thirds of his real property to Joseph, with whom he and his wife doubtless lived for the remainder of their days.

Joanna Towne figured in a series of suits brought by and against Rev. Thomas Gilbert, the Topsfield minister, in 1670. Gilbert, by his own testimony and that of his wife, was a sick man and he was doubtless of erratic temperament, but some of his principal parishioners laid his acts and eccentricities to overindulgence in drink, and the court seems to have considered their suspicions credible. Most of the evidence produced dealt with a dinner at the parsonage between two Sunday services at which Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert had Capt. John Gould, Mr. Thomas Perkins, and their wives, and old Mrs. Towne as their guests. A gold cup (surely a rare treasure in seventeenth-century New England) filled with wine was passed about the table and Mr. Gould

* *Records and Files*, II: 205.

alleged that Mr. Gilbert drank too freely therefrom. Joanna Towne (her age being given as seventy-five) testified that on Sunday Mr. Gilbert had administered the "sacrament swetly unto us" and that after the service "I was att dinner att M^{ter} Gilberts table . . . and sat next to him on his right hand, and though some report that he drank too much of the sacrament wyn . . . I believe he is wronged, for I that then sat next him saw no such matter . . . And I can saifly take my oath that though our minister had the cup twyce in his hand, yet the first tyme he drank not one drop of it, but gave it out of his hand to Thomas Perkins, bidding him give it to me, for I needed it mor than he, being older. When the cup had gone about, it came into his hand the second time and I am sure ther could not be much in it then (it may be two or three spoon-ful) and that he drank." *

At the June term of court, 1673, Joanna Towne was appointed to administer the estate of her late husband, which fixes the approximate date of William Towne's death. The property was probably retained by her until her death, and it was not divided until 1682, when Mary, widow of Edmund Towne, Jacob Towne, Joseph Towne, Francis Nurse, Mary Estey and Sarah Bridges addressed to the court "the Humbell petition of us whos names are under wrighten in way of a seatellment of a small esteat left to us by our Honered ffather deceased about tenn yers agoo who died and leaft no will," and requested that the real estate be assigned to the sons and the personal property to the daughters.†

Children, the first six baptized in Great Yarmouth:

- i. REBECCA, bapt. Feb. 21, 1621; m. Francis Nurse of Salem. (*See Nurse.*)
- ii. JOHN, bapt. Feb. 16, 1623/4; d. *s.p.*
- iii. SUSANNAH, bapt. Oct. 20, 1625; d. *s.p.*
- iv. EDMUND, bapt. June 28, 1628; m. about 1652, Mary Browning; d. in 1678. He came to New England when he was nine years old as an apprentice of Henry Skerry on the ship *Rose* which sailed from Great Yarmouth in 1637. He settled, after his marriage, in Topsfield where he was a commoner in 1661, and took the Freeman's Oath in 1664. He was a trial juryman in 1655, grand juryman in 1663, selectman in 1673, constable in 1675 and tythingman in 1677. In 1666 he was appointed corporal of the Topsfield train band and was later promoted to sergeant. Administration on his estate was granted to his widow Mary on June 27, 1678. She made her will Feb. 1, 1709, and it was probated Dec. 16, 1717.‡
- v. JACOB, bapt. March 11, 1632.§

* *Ibid.*, IV: 247, 369.

† Essex Probate, No. 27923.

‡ For further information on Edmund Towne and his descendants, see *The Ancestry of Lieut. Amos Towne*, W. G. Davis, 1927.

§ For further information on Jacob Towne and his descendants, see *The Ancestry of Dudley Wildes*, W. G. Davis, 1959.

- vi. MARY, bapt. Aug. 24, 1634; m. Isaac Estey. She was executed for witchcraft Sept. 22, 1692, her petition to the court being the outstanding note of high fortitude and understanding charity which has come down to us from Salem's black days. He died in 1712 in Topsfield. His will, made March 26, 1709, mentions his sons Isaac, Joseph, John, Benjamin, Jacob, and Joshua, and his daughters Sarah Ireland and Hannah Abbot.
- vii. SARAH, bapt. Sept. 3, 1648, in Salem; m. (1) Edmund Bridges Jan. 11, 1659/60. He died about 1682, and she m. (2) Peter Cloyes as his second wife. She was accused of witchcraft in 1692, primarily because of her courageous protest against the public blackening of her sister's name by the Salem Village clergyman, Mr. Parris, but escaped execution. She removed to Sudbury and died before 1704, when Cloyes married as his third wife Susanna Beers. He died July 18, 1708.
- viii. JOSEPH, bapt. Sept. 3, 1648, in Salem; m. Phebe Perkins about 1663, in which year his father conveyed to him a part of his house and land in Topsfield in view of the contemplated marriage. He was made freeman March 22, 1690. He died in 1713, administration being granted to his eldest son Joseph on Feb. 21, 1714. His children yielded their rights in his household goods to their mother on May 27, 1715, the names signed to the instrument being Joseph, Sarah, Martha and Phebe Towne, John Cummings (husband of Susannah Towne) and Thomas Nichols (husband of Joanna Towne).*

* Essex Probate, 311 : 236, 270.

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IV

BLESSING, OF GREAT YARMOUTH

BLESSING

Blessing is an exceedingly rare surname in England. Search in many indexes of public records has failed to turn it up at all, with the exceptions with which this article deals. In Boyd's invaluable marriage index for Suffolk, which covers every recorded marriage in that county, is found that of John Blyssynge and Joane Preaste in the year 1569 in the parish of Somerleyton. This is the one record of the name in the tens of thousands of entries which the Suffolk index contains. A letter to the rector of Somerleyton produced a pleasant but genealogically unsatisfactory reply, as is so often the case with such missives, inasmuch as the clergy do not, and probably cannot be expected to, understand the objects of record searching and too often cannot read the ancient writing in the registers. From it, however, it was learned that John and Joane Blyssynge had two children baptized in Somerleyton, a daughter Julian in 1571 and a son William in 1575. The rector found no more. Between forty and fifty years later, in the parish of Great Yarmouth, co. Norfolk, which lies on the Suffolk border and is about seven miles from Somerleyton, as the crow flies, three Blessing girls were married. Here again they are the sole representatives of the name in the Great Yarmouth marriages, indexed by Mr. Boyd, and a search of the parish register failed to disclose their baptismal records. It seems most likely that these young women were granddaughters of the Somerleyton couple, their parents marrying and bringing their children to baptism in some other parish before settling in Great Yarmouth, but unless one is personally on the ground, with plenty of time, a search of the registers of neighboring parishes is almost prohibitive. There are no Blessing wills to solve the problem and no Blessing man received the freedom of Great Yarmouth. The family was doubtless of humble status.

The three Great Yarmouth girls were Margaret Blessing who married Robert Buffam in 1613, Joan Blessing who married William Towne in 1620 and Julian Blessing, married to Thomas Goose in 1622. That there was a fourth sister, Alice Blessing, who married about 1615 into the family of Firmage of Great Yarmouth, can be demonstrated with reasonable certainty although her marriage record has not been found. Great Yarmouth was a strongly Puritan town in the period with which we are dealing and sent many emigrants to New England, among them Robert Buffam, the widower of Margaret Blessing, Alice (Blessing)

Firmage and her children, and Joan (Blessing) Towne, her husband and family. With other Great Yarmouth neighbors they settled in Salem in the colony of Massachusetts Bay.

1. MARGARET BLESSING married Robert Buffam in the church of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, August 23, 1613. Buffam or Bougham was a rare name in the parish and Robert was presumably a son of James Bougham and Margery Raylton who were married there on February 13, 1589/90. Margaret (Blessing) Buffam died before August 11, 1634, when in the neighboring church of South Walsham, co. Norfolk, Robert Buffam married Thomasine Thompson, the young widow of John Thompson and a daughter of George Ward of Great Yarmouth and his wife Dionis Burrow. Thomasine Ward had married John Thompson at St. Nicholas church on November 29, 1632, and her parents had been married there January 28, 1596/7. Thomasine Buffam had a son Joshua, named for a son of Margaret (Blessing) Buffam who had been buried in 1631, baptized on February 28, 1635/6, and a daughter Mary baptized February 2, 1637/8, and soon thereafter Robert Buffam, his wife and children, and Margaret Thompson, Thomasine's daughter by her first husband, must have crossed the Atlantic, for on October 29, 1638, Robert appeared at a town meeting in Salem and asked for "accomodation," that is to say, a grant of land, which he obtained. Thomasine and her children became strong Quakers and suffered severely for their faith. In 1666 her brother Jeffrey Ward of Great Yarmouth left £100 to "Thomesin Buffam my sister now or late the wife of Robert Buffam of New England."* Robert Buffam died in Salem on August 6, 1669, and his widow survived until May or June, 1688.

Children of Margaret (Blessing) Buffam, baptized at Great Yarmouth:

- i. MARY, bapt. Aug. 21, 1614; m. at Great Yarmouth Dec. 6, 1635, Adam Mills, both single, but she soon died as Adam Mills, widower, m. Jane Ward, single, on Dec. 27, 1636.
- ii. SAMUEL, bapt. Dec. 22, 1616; m. at Great Yarmouth Jan. 10, 1637/8, Margaret Greney, both single. They did not come to New England.
- iii. DEBORAH, bapt. Sept. 26, 1619. From the papers dealing with the estate of her father it appears probable that Deborah died young and that Robert Buffam's second wife had a daughter whom she named Deborah and who married Robert Wilson in Salem in 1658.
- iv. JOSHUA, bapt. Aug. 25, 1622; buried, "puer," Sept. 23, 1631.
- v. ABRAHAM, bapt. Aug. 17, 1625; buried, "infans," Oct. 21, 1631.

* Archdeaconry of Norfolk.

- vi. JACOB, bapt. Oct. 28, 1627; buried, "infs," Oct. 13, 1631.
- vii. JOHN, bapt. May 22, 1631; no further record.

2. ALICE BLESSING—the evidence for believing her to have been a Blessing will be given later—was married about 1615 to a man named Firmage whose given name is not known. The family of Firmage had some slight prominence in Great Yarmouth, men of the name having been bailiffs of the town in 1531, 1532, 1537 and 1551, and others being listed in the freeman's roll. The name is hardly spelled twice alike either in Old or New England—Fermace, Formais, Fearmayes, Feiremayde, Vermage, Vermaes, Vermaz, Vermayes, Vermasse and Vermages. Alice's husband either died in England or on the voyage to America for she was "widow Alice Vermais" when she appeared before the Salem town meeting on October 29, 1638, with her son Mark and her presumptive brother-in-law, Robert Buffam, and asked for "accomodation" which was granted her in the form of 50 acres on February 4, 1638/9. The two sons and four daughters who were with her in Salem must have been born in England, but, like her marriage, their baptisms are not found in the Great Yarmouth register. Probably they lived in a neighboring parish.

Alice Vermais was a member of the Salem church in 1639, but after a few years she moved to Boston, possibly with her daughter Abigail Button and her husband. The Buttons were still in Salem in 1644 but were living in Boston in December, 1645. On August 3, 1655, Alice Vermaz, widow, sometimes of Salem, for £10 sold to Henry Skerry 10 acres in the North Field in Salem, abutting on North river, and 5 acres of meadow in Wenham, adjoining land given by the town of Salem to Henry and Francis Skerry.* She made her will on February 8, 1655(6), and died on the following day.

The will of Alice Fermace of Boston, widow, was proved April 24, 1656. To my sister Joan Towne, my old cloth gown. To my daughter Ester Estick, my best stuffe gown. To my grandchild Susan Goose, my box and my muff. To my daughter Sary Langdon, my red petticoat. All my wearing linen to my daughter Sarah Langdon and my daughter Ester Estic. Pilgrim, Edee and Elizabeth, my Negro servants, to my son Mr. Edward Hutchinson, their service to be equally divided by my daughter Susan Goose and my daughter Abigail Hutchinson. Residue to all children equally. Executor: son Mr. Edward Hutchinson. Witnesses: Jonathan Negus, Elkenah Coope. The goods of Alice Fermase,

* Essex Deeds, I: 67.

widow, late of Salem, deceased, were on February 20, 1655(6), appraised at £18: 3: 0 by Jeffrey Massey and Henry Skerry, Sen. Her Boston property was valued at £11: 10: 0 in a separate inventory made by Richard Cooke and Benjamin Gillam on March 11, 1656.

The legacy to "my sister Joan Towne" is evidence that Alice Firmage was born a Blessing as we know Joan to have been, although there is the possibility that they were half sisters, born to a common mother. Additional evidence is presented by the name of Alice's daughter Susan Goose. The will (1705) of Joshua Buffam, son of Alice's brother-in-law, Robert Buffam, states that he had bought 5 acres in the North Field from his "cousin Goose." This conveyance, dated November 13, 1677, was from Susanna Goose of Boston, widow, to Joshua Buffum, covering 5 acres in the North Field. Her son, Isaac Goose, consented to the same on the same day.* It should also be noted that Joshua Buffam was not a son of his father's first wife, Margaret Blessing, but of the second, and was not, therefore, a blood cousin of the Firmage children, but it would not be strange for the relationship to be assumed.

Alice Firmage's 50-acre grant in Salem was not disposed of until June 1, 1678, when Susanna Goose of Boston, widow, Abigail Hutchinson of Boston, widow, John Langdon, sailmaker, of Boston, and Sarah, his wife, and Esther Eastwick of Salem, widow, sold it to Samuel Frayl of Salem for £50.†

It is hardly to be doubted that the two Firmage young men who were in Salem with Alice Firmage, 1638-1640, were her sons, but neither Mark nor Benjamin is mentioned in her will. Both had long since left the Massachusetts Bay Colony, however, and her highly personal legacies would not have been suitable for them. They are treated herein as her children, although slight possibility exists that she was their stepmother.

Children of Alice (Blessing) Firmage, born in England:

- i. MARK, surely born by 1619 as he (Formais) was made a freeman in Salem May 13, 1640, having been admitted to the church Sept. 22, 1639. He had applied to the town for land in 1638 and was granted a 10-acre lot. Mark became engaged to marry a girl named Katherine, her surname unknown, but she jilted him and married Nicholas Pacy. On Dec. 29, 1640, the Pacys appeared in court and Nicholas confessed that he knew of his wife's promise to marry Mark Vermass of Salem when he married her and made "heartly acknowledgment" of the wrong, while Katherine admitted that she had been troubled in her conscience since her marriage. Mark

* *Ibid.*, 4: 165.

† *Ibid.*, 18: 99.

Vermais was sued for trespass by William Cousins in 1641 and in June, 1643, he (Vermass) was a member of the Essex County grand jury. This is the last record of him found in New England. He must have returned to England and found a more faithful girl than the fickle Katherine, for at the Independence Church at Great Yarmouth Mark and Ruth Firman or Vermace had four children baptized, 1647/8-1658, named Benjamin, Ruth, Benjamin again and William.

- ii. BENJAMIN, probably born about 1620. He was admitted to Salem church on March 6, 1641/2, and made a freeman in Boston May 18, 1642. "Mr. Benjamin Vermayes married unto Mrs Mercy Bradford the one and twentyeth of December," 1648. She was the eldest daughter of Gov. William Bradford and the marriage is recorded as above in the Plymouth Colony Records. He is said to have bought a house and garden in Plymouth, and in 1650/1 in the inventory of the estate of Thomas Richards of Weymouth was entered "debt due to mr. ffermace of Plymouth." Mercy seems to have soon died, childless, and Benjamin, a sea captain, may have traveled far afield, his home port unknown.

On Nov. 28, 1665, the Essex County Court, having been informed of the death of Benjamin Fearemayes at Ginne [Guinea], ordered that his estate in Salem be given into the hands of Captain Huchesson and the widow Hester Eastwick, and on June 26, 1666, administration on the estate of Captain Fermayes was granted to Hester. George Gardner and Francis Nurse appraised the property which consisted of one acre in the field near the north ferry and half an acre, lying between Mr. John Gidney and Goodman Peter, at £14. There was also a ten-acre lot "on Marblehead side" but unfortunately it could not be located. Francis Nurse, aged about forty-five years, deposed that Ester Eswicke entrusted a cow worth £5 to Fermane who promised to pay her 20s. a year for it, nineteen years ago, and Esther was ordered to pay herself her due. Francis Nurse was the son-in-law of Joan (Blessing) Towne. Possibly Mistress Firmage's three Negro slaves were the product of one of the captain's voyages to Guinea.

- iii. SUSAN, married before 1656 Peter Vergoose of Boston.* In her mother's will of 1656 Susan was called Goose, she signed the deeds of 1677 and 1678 Susan Goose and the will of Joshua Buffum of 1705 refers to her as cousin Goose. Judge Savage's statement that Goose and Vergoose were alternative names, however, led to further investigation, and the fact that Isaac Goose consented to his mother's conveyance to Buffum in 1677 proved a valuable clue.

Peter Vergoose was a Boston merchant who died about December, 1667, when his widow Susanna was appointed administratrix. Their son Isaac Vertigoose of Boston bought a lot in Boston from Anthony Harker on Jan. 12, 1662, the deed stating that the purchase price of £30 was paid by Peter Vertigoose, father of Isaac, in part payment for Isaac's services for five years, worth £10 a year. Edward Hutchinson, husband of Abigail Firmage, witnessed the deed.† The land of Isaac Goose *alias* Vergoose was mentioned in a deed of July 13, 1671,‡ and both Peter and Isaac Goose are

* In an article entitled "The Four Blessing Sisters" in *The American Genealogist*, Vol. 33, p. 199, I advanced a "plausible theory" that Susan Firmage was the first wife of Capt. William Goose of Charlestown and that she died before 1658 when Captain Goose married Susanna Jones. This theory has proved to be untenable. In fact, I had, at that time, an abstract of the conveyance of the Firmage heirs which was made in 1678, in which Susan Goose, widow was a grantor, but it was filed in a Hutchinson folder, Abigail Hutchinson being another of the heirs, and thus escaped my notice.

† Suffolk Deeds, IV: 75.

‡ *Ibid.*, VII: 238.

several times mentioned as abutters in other conveyances. On Sept. 20, 1679, Susanna Vergoose of Boston, widow and administratrix of the estate of Peter Vergoose, and her children Isaac Vergoose and John Raynsford and Susanna, his wife, conveyed her property to Isaac for "my more comfortable maintenance now in my old age.*

Susanna Vergoose of Boston, widow, made her will Dec. 23, 1681, and it was proved Jan. 29, 1685. She left to her son Peter Vergoose in the city of Norwich, England, "if he come over or send for it," £20 in New England money. To the children of her dear daughter Susannah Raynsford "lately departed this life," that is John Raynsford, Mary Shute, Susannah Raynsford, Edward Raynsford, Hannah Raynsford and Nathan Raynsford, £5 each. To the children of her son Isaac Vergoose, that is Jonathan, Mary and Isaac Vergoose "and the little child that my daughter Mary† (now wife of my son Isaac) now goeth with," £5 each. "Whereas through oversight Elizabeth Raynsford, the eldest daughter of my said daughter Raynsford, deceased, which should have been the first of those children mentioned," [was omitted], to her, £20. Residuary legatee and executor, son Isaac. Witnesses: Samuel Sewall, Daniel Quinsey, Robert Howard. The inventory, taken by Robert Sanderson, Sr., and Henry Alline, amounted to £95.‡

A pedigree of the family of Vertegans *alias* Rottengoose of Norwich, co. Norfolk, begins with a Peter Vertegans, "born beyond the seas," which doubtless means the Low Countries, who by his first wife Judith Baert had a son Peter, baptized in 1601, and by his second wife Jacomine Gilliots, whose will was dated Feb. 7, 1648/9, six children including a son Isaac who was baptized in 1608. There can be no doubt that the emigrant Peter Vergoose of Boston was a member of this family.§

- iv. ABIGAIL, admitted to the church in Salem in 1640. She married (1) Robert Button, freeman at Salem in 1642, and they had two children baptized in Salem 1642-1644. In 1645 Button moved to Boston where three more children were baptized 1645-1650, and where he was a prominent merchant. He died in Jan., 1651. Abigail married (2) Edward Hutchinson, Jr., of Boston, son of William and Anne (Marbury) Hutchinson, as his second wife. The distinguished son of a notable mother, Hutchinson was a representative to the General Court, a captain in the colony's military forces, and firm in opposition to the cruel treatment of the Quakers. He died at Marlborough Aug. 19, 1675, aged 62, as the result of a wound treacherously inflicted by an Indian during King Philip's war. Abigail survived until Aug. 10, 1689. By Hutchinson she had four children.
- v. SARAH, married before 1656, when her mother made her will, John Langdon of Boston, sailmaker. The Boston records contain the birth record of only one child, Abigail Langdon, born Aug. 25, 1660, but deeds disclose two others. John and Sarah Langdon on Feb. 2, 1664, deeded to Thomas Randall of Marblehead who was about to marry their daughter Sarah, land in Boston.|| On May 14, 1674, they conveyed to their son Benjamin Langdon their dwelling house and the land thereto belonging, for affection, some relief in old age

* *Ibid.*, XI: 230.

† Mary Goose, wife of Isaac, died Oct. 19, 1690, aged 42. Her grave in the Granary Burying Ground in Boston, is pointed out as that of "Mother Goose," a harmless fiction.

‡ Suffolk Probate, No. 1446.

§ *East Anglian Pedigrees*, Arthur Campling, Norfolk Record Society, Vol. XIII, p. 226.

|| Suffolk Deeds, VIII: 400.

- and the love he bore to his sisters.* They were both living in 1678.
- vi. ESTHER, married about 1650 Edward Eastwick, mariner, of Salem. The Goodwife Eastwick who was admitted to Salem church on Dec. 29, 1640, was possibly Edward's mother and identical with the Elizabeth Eastwick who testified in Salem court in June, 1643, as to Mary West—"ye woman is a very diligent woman." Mary was asking for higher wages from her master, Goodman Canterbury. Elizabeth also testified to the nuncupative will of John Thorne of Salem in 1646, and then appears no more.

Edward Eastwick died before Nov. 28, 1665, when widow Hester Eastwick had the estate of her brother Benjamin Fearemayes placed in her hands. Administration on Edward's estate was granted to her June 26, 1666, when she brought in a small inventory and was ordered to pay her children, Elizabeth 14 years old, Sarah 12, Hannah 10, Esther 7 (born April 21, 1659) and Edward 4 (born April 12, 1662) 40 shillings each at age or marriage. She survived until 1708 when her will, made July 22, 1698, was proved. She made bequests to her grandchildren Elizabeth Carle (phonetic for Searle), Benjamin Bush, Edward Bush and Estwick Bush, and left the remainder to her daughter Elizabeth Bush. It would seem that Elizabeth was the only one of the five Eastwick children to reach maturity and marry. Her first husband, whom she married June 24, 1673, was William Pickman of Salem on whose estate she was granted administration June 28, 1676, and to whom she bore a posthumous son, William Pickman, on Sept. 7, 1676. She married, secondly, Aug. 1, 1678, in Salem, as his second wife, Edward Bush by whom she had seven children.

3. JOAN BLESSING married William Towne in Great Yarmouth on April 25, 1620. (*See Towne.*)

4. JULIAN BLESSING married Thomas Goose in Great Yarmouth on July 31, 1622, but of her later years nothing is at present known. A Thomas Goose, son of John Goose, mariner, was granted the freedom of Great Yarmouth by birth in 1615, and it is highly probable that he was Julian's future husband. Also, one would like to think that Capt. William Goose, the Great Yarmouth mariner who transported so many Norfolk people to New England, was Julian's brother-in-law.

* *Ibid.*, 401.

V

SMITH, OF SALEM

SMITH

1. "M^R SMITH [Junio^r]" is the earliest known ancestor of the Quaker family of Smith of Salem. On August 22, 1635, the town of Salem ordered that Mr. Burdett should have a lot of land upon the rock beyond Mr. Endicott's fence, and on April 10, 1637, it was recorded that "m^r Smith [Junio^r] may purchas that 2 acre Lott from m^r Burdett att 7£."* Mr. Burdett, the original grantee, was Rev. George Burdett, of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, in 1624, and later a preacher at Great Yarmouth, co. Norfolk, who left Salem for Dover, New Hampshire, in 1637.†

In 1658 a house and lot of two acres on the north river, bounded south "by the house and land of Mr. Endecott" was owned by John Smith, tailor, and on January 28 of that year he sold it to Thomas Hale of Salem, glover.‡ John Smith, the tailor, was one of the original converts to the Quaker faith in Salem, and, in his letter to John Endicott, written in 1660, he reminds the governor of "times past, when thou livedst next to me."§ John Smith married a young woman about 1655 and all of his children were by her, so it would seem most probable that he was not the man who bought the lot next to Endicott in 1637, but rather that he was a son whose youth was spent in a house built by "m^r Smith [Junio^r]," his father.

Who, then, was "m^r Smith [Junio^r]"? Needless to say he was not necessarily a son of Mr. Smith, Senior, but merely the younger of two Salem Smiths both dignified by the title "Mr." Mr. Smith, Senior, was in all probability the "Mr. Smith" who was, on April 17, 1637, assigned one hundred and fifty acres beyond "the ould planters farmes." This would be in that part of Salem which was first known as Enon and later became the town of Wenham, and "Mr. Smith" was undoubtedly Samuel Smith of Enon who died in 1642 leaving a large estate, including a farm of over two hundred acres, to his wife Sarah, his son Thomas, his daughter Mary and his son William Brown.|| There were two other early settlers of Salem named Smith who were not granted the title "Mr.": first, Thomas Smith who was a juror in the September term of the county court in 1636 and was presumably

* *Town Records of Salem*, I: 45. The lot is No. 54 on the map opposite page 313 in volume I of Perley's *History of Salem*.

† *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*, p. 119.

‡ *Essex Deeds*, I: 45.

§ *New England Judged*, by George Bishop, edition of 1885, p. 292.

|| *Probate Records of Essex County*, I: 18.

that Thomas Smith, sailor, who was lost at sea with his son George in 1662, leaving a widow Mary who was administratrix of both estates;* second, James Smyth, a smith, who was granted a house lot of two acres on April 6, 1635, lived in that part of Salem which became Marblehead and died in 1661, leaving one son only, another James.†

For the remaining possibility a strong case can be made out. In the *James* of London, William Cooper, master, which sailed from Southampton April 5 and arrived in New England June 3, 1635, was George Smyth, a tailor. Fellow passengers, coming from Salisbury, co. Wilts, were Edmund Batter and Philip Veren both of whom settled in Salem and were very prominent there.‡ In the Salem Book of Grants, under the date 6:2:1635, the town made grants to Batter, Veren and George Smith—"Howse lotts graunted by the towne - - - to George Smyth 2 acres."§ This is the sole record of George Smith in Salem, unless he was also "m^r Smith [Junio^r]," as I believe him to have been. In that case he most probably died soon after he bought the Burdett lot in 1637, leaving a son John Smith, who also became a tailor, named his only son George and owned three old pewter platters marked G S, as will be seen in the following account of him.

In December, 1637, Salem distributed marsh lots to the inhabitants, and on 25:4m:1638, "it is ordered that [Rich] Adams, widdow Smith, Sam. Cornish and Joseph Graften's mother in law all wch were forgotten in the devision shall have ther halfe acres apeece of marsh land."|| Widow Smith may be the widow of George Smith, whose name does not appear on the all-inclusive list of 1637, and she may also be that Edith Smith whose will, made 3:12 mo:1642 and proved 9:5 mo:1647 by the oath of John Robinson of Salem, is unfortunately unrecorded and missing from the probate files.¶

Child of "m^r Smith [Junio^r"]:

2. i. JOHN.

* *Ibid.*, I: 363-364.

† *Ibid.*, I: 348.

‡ Sidney Perley, in his *History of Salem*, I: 294, states that George Smith was a brother-in-law of Edmund Batter, but I find no evidence of this relationship.

§ *Town Records of Salem*, I: 42.

|| *Ibid.*, I: 70.

¶ *Probate Records of Essex County*, I: 78. Judge Savage thought that George Smith of Salem in 1635 was possibly that George Smith who was first of record in Ipswich in 1648, but the lapse of unrecorded time is long. If the Salem man did not die between April and December, 1637, he is more likely to have been that George Smith who appears in 1639 in Dover, New Hampshire (where Rev. George Burdett had gone in 1637), was Commissioner to end small causes, Associate Justice of the Dover Court, Clerk of the Writs, and, in 1653, when he disappears from the records, was Recorder of Courts. Although Judge Savage makes him father of several New Hampshire Smiths, there is no evidence that he had a wife or a family in Dover.

2. JOHN SMITH, tailor, of Salem married about the year 1657 Margaret (Thompson), daughter of Tamesin Buffum. She died January 12, 1678(9) and he survived until 1680.

As stated in the account of his father, he sold his house in the town in 1658 and moved to what was then a country neighborhood, now the border between Salem and Peabody, where on a small lot of half an acre on Strongwater brook, given or sold to him by Lawrence Southwick, he built a house. No legal conveyance was made by Southwick and it was not until March 17, 1681/2, after both had died, that Southwick's son Daniel deeded the property to the guardians of George and Exercise Smith, two of John's children.* The land remained in the hands of Smith's descendants until 1748 when his grandson, John Smith, moving to Mendon, sold it to Roger Derby, sadler.†

Margaret Smith was with her mother and brother at the first Quaker meeting at Lawrence Southwick's house on June 5, 1658, and for the remainder of their lives the history of the Smiths is bound up with the Quaker persecution, possibly the blackest page in Massachusetts history. For ten years at almost every session of the county court John Smith was fined for his absence and that of his wife from the regular Congregational meetings and for their attendance at "disorderly Quaking" gatherings.‡

On October 13, 1659, when Robinson and Stevenson, two English Quakers who had been released from prison in Salem a month previously, went to Boston from where they had been banished on pain of death, Margaret Smith was one of the five Salem converts who accompanied them. Arriving in Boston early in the evening, they were immediately thrown into the prison from which the two young Englishmen went to the gallows on October 27. Margaret Smith and her Salem neighbors and companions, Mary Trask and Hannah Phelps, were examined by the authorities on November 11 and on the following day she was publicly whipped ten stripes in the open street and recommitted to jail until the jailor's fees were paid by her friends.

In the spring of 1660 Margaret Smith was again in the Boston jail, under circumstances described by her husband in a long letter to Governor Endicott. The letter contains much doctrinal disputation, but the following are the more factual portions:§

"Oh governor, governor, do not think that my love to my wife is at all abated, because I sit still silent, and do not seek her re-

* Essex Deeds, 6: 48.

† *Ibid.*, 96: 270.

‡ See *Records and Files*, volumes I to VI, by index.

§ *New England Judged*, George Bishop, edition of 1885, pp. 291-297.

leasement and freedom, which if I did would not avail, it is like, because your cruelty doth so much abound unjustly and unrighteously toward her, as hath been seen all along; as at the first, in taking her up for nothing but being in company with others, committing her to the prison, where she was wet from the head to the feet with the extremity of rain; keeping her close prisoner, wet as she was, until night; a most cruel act, she being but a sickly woman formerly, that such a thing, it is like, might have put an end to her days; which is that many would have done now, it is like, as doth appear, since by your practices toward her, increasing your cruelties to a higher measure, and then sending for her before the governor, and nothing justly laid to her charge as evil, yet committed to the prison again, where she was kept a month and odd days, then calling her before the Court; upon examination of her, there being nothing justly laid to her charge; yet to fulfil your wills, it was determined, 'That she must have ten stripes in the open market-place'; it being very cold, the snow lying by the walls, and the wind blowing very cold, which the whipper, like an inhuman brute, for haste tore part of her clothes, the standers-by bidding him do it, in my hearing; . . . And now another cruel act, the like was never heard of in New England, even keeping her close prisoner in Salem, not suffering her to come home to her house, my children left to the wide world, to them that would show mercy to them in the extremity of the cold winter season, and so haling her to the prison the next day, it being snowy, wet weather, not fit for a woman to travel in, putting her into the prison again, all wet with the cold snow, a most cruel thing, and there kept her in the winter season, not regarding her if she had been frozen to death. . . .

Oh! my spirit is grieved for thee, because that the love I did once see in thee, is departed from thee, and there remaineth in thee a spirit of cruelty, of hard-heartedness to thy poor neighbors, which thou hast formerly been much beholden to, and relieved by in time of want, when thou hadst no bread to eat. Oh! consider of these times, and forget them not, and of the love thou didst find amongst poor people in thy necessity, and how evil thou hast dealt, and requited some of them now, and how thou didst walk and act contrary to what thou didst formerly profess; . . . consider with thyself, how thy life and conversation hath been in times past, when thou livedst next to me, who being often at thy house to fetch home what was borrowed from me . . . Oh! consider of these things before the judgments of the Lord come upon thee,

and before it be too late, for of a truth it will come in the Lord's time, and will not tarry; and nothing can keep them from thee, but repentance, and forsaking thy evil way, turning to Him with all thy heart, with all thy mind, and all thy soul, and repealing of those unrighteous laws which yet remain in the country, and not to make more, as was petitioned for this Court of Election, 'That no man or woman should bring anything to the prisoners, or carry anything from them, upon the fine of twenty pounds,' which was granted by some of you, to the value of five pounds for the first time, and ten pounds for the second; and whether to increase more, I know not. A cruel law as ever I heard of; what, to starve them to death? Worse than to hang them by and by out of the way; which doth plainly appear, that you would have starved them to death, for which God in his time will call you to an account; and happy is everyone that hath no hand in these cruel laws, made and executed upon many, unto death itself upon three of them; and whippings and imprisonments above measure, which makes many to fall off from you, through your cruelty done to others, and I think will join no more with you, known by the name of John Smith, thy next neighbour in times past, and then serviceable to thee in many things, and, it is like, somewhat beloved by thee; but now it is otherwise, as it appears by thy hard dealing to my beloved wife. This I am constrained to write to thee in love and tenderness.

JOHN SMITH."

Smith also wrote a letter* to his brother-in-law Joshua Buffum, which has survived in the hands of Buffum descendants. Buffum was in exile at Shelter Island.

"For the hands of
Joshua Buffum at
Shelter Island or elsewhere.

Joshua Buffum dear brother this is to let thee understand and all friends with thee how many of us are hear in prison at this time . . . my wife and Mary Traske imprisoned the 12 day of the 12 month 1659 and hear kept ever since . . . who was imprisoned both of them for meeting at Edward Whartons house near the meeting house and for making disturbance before they had done as they say . . . I was put in prison for making a disturbance on the day of ordination as they say being moved of the lord to de-

* *History of Salem*, Sidney Perley, II: 262.

clare against them therein imprisoned the 6 of the 7 month 1660
and hear now must remain al winter for ought we know.

Wrighten in the hous of correction	From the dear brother in the
the 4 day of the 9 month 1660	[Lord] John Smith
	Arraigned and in prison."

When Rev. John Higginson was ordained at the church in Salem on July 8, 1660, John Smith cried out "What you are going about to set up our God is pulling down," referring to the Quaker disbelief in "priesthood," and, as he doubtless expected, he was immediately committed to prison, presumably in Boston.

On December 21, 1660, Mary Trask and Margaret Smith also wrote a letter to Endicott "From your House of Correction, where we have been unjustly restrained from our children and habitations; one of us above ten months, and the other about eight, and where we are yet continued by you oppressors, that know no shame." It was entirely an exposition of doctrine, and ably done.* Both John and Margaret remained in jail until June 3, 1661, when they were released. "Not long after, John Smith and his wife, of Salem, determined to return to their home from which they had been kept nearly two years by you in prison; she, falling sick, often fainted on the way. As she was driven by you through Boston, being very sick and weak, and leaning on a staff, Bellingham, your deputy-governor, met with them, and was so far from pity or remorse or of having compassion for her that he committed both of them to prison again."†

Eventually released, the Smiths returned to Salem, continued to attend the Quaker meetings and were constantly fined for absence from the Salem church from 1662 until 1669, but the heat of persecution had died out and apparently they were not again imprisoned. The last record of Margaret Smith is in Salem Court in July, 1676, when Josiah Southwick was fined upon his presentment for bringing the wife of John Smith on Lord's day to speak to the people.‡

John Smith died in Virginia in 1680. Possibly he had gone there as a member of a Quaker mission. His will, made January 20, 1678, was proved in Salem June 29, 1680. To his son George he left the west end of his house and land with the use of the ovens in the other room, his ten-acre lot and marsh, a pewter platter marked G S, the biggest iron pot, an iron skillet, all iron tools,

* *New England Judged*, George Bishop, edition of 1885, pp. 297-300.

† *Ibid.*, p. 220.

‡ *Records and Files*, VI: 192.

a great brass kettle, a great chest, a great table, a fire pan, tongs, old andirons and spit, a feather-bed and furniture belonging to it. To his daughter Exercise, a feather-bed and the furniture belonging to it, a great brass pan, the middlemost iron pot, one brass skillet, one pewter platter marked G S, one three pint pot, an old porringer, the old brass pot, two pewter saucers and one brass candlestick. To George, the other brass candlestick and one pint pot. To Exercise, the other pint pot, one pine chest, one little trunk and the east end of the house with the land adjoining to it. To daughter Tamsen, one trundle feather-bed and furniture, one little iron pot, one pewter platter marked G S, one pint pot of pewter, one old porringer, one copper kettle, two saucers and one white earthen basin. The sheets and other linen to be divided among all four children. As for house and land and cattle, George is to have a double portion, and the three daughters to have equal shares alike. George and Exercise are to pay Mary and Tamsin. Overseers for the children: brother Joshua Bofem and Samuel Shadock, with the advice of mother.* George is to dwell with Daniel Suthwick, Exercise with Joshua Bofem, Tamesin with her sister Mary. In case mother should take Tamesin to herself, she is not to be the loser for what she hath done for her. In case Mary die, her portion is to go to her son Samuel. Witnesses: Caleb Buffum, Mary Mills, Damaris Buffum. The inventory listed property worth £174 including an unusual portion of brass, copper, iron and pewter articles. He owned a silver dram cup. The court ordered that the administrators, Joshua Buffum and Samuel Nurse, appointed when the will was admitted to probate, pay £20 to John Nurse, a grandchild, within six months after George and Exercise Smith came of age.†

Children, born in Salem:

- i. ELIZABETH; m. Nov. 1, 1672, John Nurse; d. Oct. 22, 1673, ten days after the birth of her son John, who was not named in his grandfather Smith's will but was provided for by the court.
- ii. MARY; m. April 5, 1677, Samuel Nurse. (*See Nurse.*)
- iii. GEORGE, b. Jan. 5, 1663/4; m. Hannah —; d. in 1744. In 1687 George Smith, joiner, deeded to his brother-in-law Samuel Pope one-third of a lot in the north field left him by his father, and Pope conveyed to Smith the share of his wife Exercise Pope in the homestead of her father, John Smith, at Strongwater brook.‡ George Smith built a new house and gave the western part of the old house to his son John March 5, 1724/5, and his great barn on July 12, 1740.§
The will of George Smith of Salem was made Aug. 10, 1744, and

* Presumably his mother-in-law, Tamesin Buffum.

† *Probate Records of Essex County*, III: 368.

‡ *Essex Deeds*, 7: 121, 122.

§ *Ibid.*, 45: 25; 80: 180.

proved Jan. 6, 1745. To his daughter Margaret Pope he left one-third of his personal estate and four acres in the west field for life. After her death the land was to go to her son Enos Pope. To his son John Smith, the easterly half of the homestead with the buildings thereon, the use of half of the barn with a suitable way thereto and one-third of his personal estate. To his son Samuel Smith, the westerly half of the homestead with the buildings thereon and one-third of his personal estate. The rest of the lands were to be divided between his two sons, they to pay their sister Margaret Pope £10 a year for ten years. Executors: John and Samuel Smith. Witnesses: Samuel Stone, John Southwick, Jr., Joseph Southwick.*

Children, born in Salem:

1. *Margaret*, b. March 18, 1690/1; m. March 17, 1714/5, Enos Pope, clothier.
2. *George*, b. Nov. 28, 1693; mariner; d. *s.p.* before April 19, 1726, when his sister Margaret Pope deeded to her brother Samuel her share in their brother George's house and one-quarter of an acre of land in Salem and one acre in the north field.†
3. *John*, b. Dec. 26, 1699; glazier and joiner; living by 1748 in Mendon where a John Smith d. June 27, 1772. His brother Samuel had conveyed to him his interest in the family homestead on Jan. 9, 1745.‡ When he left Salem he sold the whole property to Roger Derby, sadler.§
4. *Samuel*, b. May 8, 1703; shopkeeper; living in 1745.
- iv. EXERCISE, b. April 12, 1667; m. Jan. 28, 1685, Samuel Pope.
- v. TAMESIN, b. April 1, 1671; m. Feb. 21, 1688, Benjamin Nurse.

* Essex Probate, 326: 427.

† Essex Deeds, 45: 278.

‡ *Ibid.*, 87: 151.

§ *Ibid.*, 96: 270.

VI

THOMPSON AND WARD,
OF GREAT YARMOUTH

THOMPSON

John Thompson and Thomasine Ward were married at Great Yarmouth, co. Norfolk, on November 29, 1632, their marriage lasting only a little over a year as he was buried at Great Yarmouth on February 26, 1633/4. His widow, who was a daughter of George and Dionis Ward, had a posthumous daughter, born four months after her husband's death. Thomasine Thompson married, secondly, at Walsham St. Lawrence [South Walsham], co. Norfolk, on August 11, 1634, Robert Buffam with whom she emigrated to New England.

The name Thompson was very common in Great Yarmouth, and, with the common given name John added thereto, identification of this particular John Thompson would be very difficult.

Child:

- i. MARGARET, bapt. at Great Yarmouth on June 30, 1634. She was brought to Salem, Massachusetts, by her mother and stepfather and there married, about 1657, John Smith. (*See Smith.*)

WARD

George Warde and Dionis Burrow were married in the church of St. Nicholas, Great Yarmouth, co. Norfolk, on January 28, 1596/7. Dionis, a daughter of Hugh and Thomasyn Borough, had been baptized in the same church on February 20, 1577. Her father, Hugh Burrow, had married Agnes Echard at Great Yarmouth on January 26, 1565, and this wife, after bearing at least three children, Christopher, Edward and Dionis, 1568-1572, was buried there on March 27, 1573. The marriage of Burrow to his second wife, Thomasine, is not recorded. She was buried July 9, 1598, and he on February 15, 1603, at St. Nicholas.

George Ward, presumably born about 1575 (no baptismal record is found), was admitted freeman of Great Yarmouth in 1602 by the grant of bailiff Thomas Damett, the record giving Ward's occupation as beer brewer.* George and Dionis Ward

* Walter Rye, in his *Norfolk Families*, 1913, says "Thomas Ward, admitted in 1601 as son of Tobias Ward, scrivener, as was George Ward, beer brewer, in 1602." The published roll of Great Yarmouth freemen does not bear Mr. Rye out, however, the entry of George Ward making no statement of his paternity. Our beer brewer named a son Tobias, but that name was so common in Great Yarmouth as to be without value as evidence. An attempt has been made to place Tobias Ward, the scrivener, in the visitation family of Ward of Postwick, co. Norfolk, but the evidence is weak and there were Wards in Great Yarmouth from very early times.

are last found in 1619 when their last recorded child was baptized.

Children, baptized at Great Yarmouth:

- i. THOMAS, bapt. April 10, 1598; probably d. young.
- ii. ELLEN, bapt. May 23, 1599; probably d. young.
- iii. JEFFERYE, bapt. Aug. 24, 1600; m. at Great Yarmouth July 13, 1628, Margaret Riches. He was made a freeman of Great Yarmouth in 1630, and signed the Solemn League and Covenant in 1648. He was bailiff of Great Yarmouth 1650-1661. He died in 1666, *s.p.*
 The will of Jeffrey Warde, the elder, of Great Yarmouth, merchant, was signed Oct. 4, 1665, and proved April 9, 1666. To wife Margaret. "I give and bequeath unto Thomasin Buffam my sister now or late the wife of Robert Buffam of New England the sume of one hundred pounds to be paid unto her within eighteen months after my decease." To sister Jane Mills, widow, £75. To William Warde, son of brother George Warde, £100. Sister Dionis Locker, deceased. To kinsman Francis Clifton. To kinsman Benjamin Barker. To Jeffrey, son of brother George Warde, deceased, not twenty-one. To nephew William Warde, a house in Great Yarmouth which the testator had bought of George Warde, father of the said William, during his life, then to Jeffrey, son of the said William. To nephew George, son of Toby Warde, deceased. To brother-in-law John Riches. To nephews Jeffrey and Thomas, sons of Toby Warde. To kinsmen Benjamin Barker, Augustin Warde, John Beckham, Francis Clifton, John Worte, John Dowsinge, Rob. Baly and Thomasin Flowers, late the wife of William Flowers. To nephew Thomas, son of Gabriel Warde, deceased. To nephew Augustin, son of Toby Warde. To Abigail, widow of brother Toby Warde. To nephew Robert, son of brother Toby Warde. Executors: nephews William, George and Jeffrey Warde.*
- iv. DEANIS, bapt. Oct. 10, 1602; m. — Locker; d. before 1665.
- v. THOMASINE; m. (1) at Great Yarmouth Nov. 29, 1632, John Thompson who was buried at Great Yarmouth Feb. 26, 1633/4. She m. (2) at Walsham St. Lawrence (South Walsham, co. Norfolk) Aug. 11, 1634, Robert Buffam with whom she emigrated to New England and settled in Salem. Mentioned in the will of her brother Jeffrey Ward in 1665. By her second husband, Robert Buffam, Thomasine had six children. She and her family became strong Quakers and suffered severely for their faith in the persecutions of 1658-1660. She died in Salem on May 23, 1688, aged 82. (*See Thompson.*)
- vi. GEORGE, bapt. June 19, 1607; m. at Great Yarmouth Dec. 29, 1630, Mary Baker (Barker?). He was made a freeman of Great Yarmouth in 1632.

The will of George Ward, beer brewer, was made Feb. 23, 1654(5) and proved Aug. 6, 1655. He left to Nathaniel Ward, his youngest son, and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, tenements, house and grounds in Yarmouth, after his wife's decease, which he had purchased from his brother-in-law Barker. If Nathaniel die without issue, the tenements, etc. are to go to Geoffery and Dyonis, brother and sister of Nathaniel, and their heirs forever. To Mary, his wife, sole executrix, all of his personal estate for the payment of his debts. "These instructions for the making of his will were written from his own mouth in his last time and when he was in good memory, but before the same were drawn into form he died,

* Archdeaconry of Norwich.

being about the space of an hour and half after the said instructions were given." Witnesses: Geoffrery Ward, John Woodroffe.*

Children :

1. *William*; living in 1665 and father of a son Jeffrey; both mentioned in the will of his uncle Jeffrey Ward.
2. *Jeffrey*; under age in 1665 when mentioned in the will of his uncle Jeffrey.
3. *Dionis*; named in the will of her father in 1655.
4. *Nathaniel*; named in the will of his father in 1655.
- vii. JANE, bapt. Nov. 19, 1609; m. at Great Yarmouth Dec. 27, 1636, Adam Mills whose first wife had been Mary Buffam, daughter of Robert Buffam, second husband of Thomasine Ward; a widow in 1665 when mentioned in the will of her brother Jeffrey.
- viii. ANNE, bapt. Dec. 2, 1611.
- ix. TOBY (Tobias), bapt. May 29, 1615; m. Abigail ——— who was living in 1665 when she was named in the will of her brother-in-law Jeffrey Ward; Toby Ward d. before May 25, 1655, when his will was proved. He was made a freeman of Great Yarmouth in 1639.

The will of Toby Ward of Great Yarmouth, maltster, was made Nov. 14, 1653. Copyhold messuages and tenements in South Walsham, Hemblington, Pansworth, Burlington and Upton, co. Norfolk, for want of a surrender thereof to the use of his last will and testament, will descend to George Ward, his oldest son and next heir. George is required to be dutiful, obedient and loving to Abigail his mother as he expects his father's blessing. George is to pay out of the copyholds to Dionis Ward, the testator's daughter, and to his sons Robert Ward, Augustine Ward, Gabriell Ward, Thomas Ward and John Ward £20 apiece at their several ages of 21. To his son Toby Ward, at 21, two-thirds of his freehold lands in the parishes aforesaid, on condition that he cause to be paid to the aforesaid Dionis, Robert, Augustin, Gabriel, Thomas and John £10 apiece when they shall attain to their several ages of 21. To his son Jeffery Ward the other one-third of his freehold land at 21, he to pay the aforesaid children £5 apiece at their several ages of 21. His wife Abigail to take and receive all of the profits of his freehold lands until Toby and Jeffery shall attain 21. All his houses and messuages in Great Yarmouth excepting the tenement now in the occupation of Samuel Johnson, cooper, to be sold by his executors and supervisors and out of the monies his debts to be paid. Out of the remainder of the monies two parts to Abigail his wife, and one part and a half to Dionis his daughter and the rest of the monies among the rest of his children, namely Robert, Augustin, Gabriell, Thomas and John. This money to be shared as abovesaid to be put into the hands of the town of Great Yarmouth and his wife is to have the interest thereof toward the education of his children. Also to his wife the tenement in the occupation of Samuel Johnson. Executors, wife Abigail and son George. Supervisor: his brother Jeffery Ward. Witnesses: George Ward and Mary his wife, Anthony Barker. Proved May 25, 1655.†

Children, baptized in South Walsham :

1. *George*, bapt. Oct. 30, 1636. He is possibly the George Ward of Great Yarmouth who disclaimed arms in 1664. Mentioned in the will of his uncle Jeffrey in

* Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

† *Ibid.*

1665, with his brothers Jeffrey, Thomas, Augustin and Robert. He was bailiff of Great Yarmouth in 1671, first mayor of the city in 1684, and died in 1690, aged 55.

2. *Dinah* (Dionis), bapt. Oct. 1, 1637; living in 1653.
3. *Jeffrey*, bapt. Sept. 23, 1638; buried Oct. 16, 1638.
4. *Tobiah* (Tobias), bapt. March 8, 1639(40); living in 1653.
5. *Jeffrey*, bapt. Feb. 21, 1640(1); living in 1665.
6. *Robert*, bapt. Feb. 27, 1643(4); living in 1665.
7. *Augustine*, bapt. Feb. 16, 1644(5); living in 1665.
8. *Gabriel*; living in 1653.
9. *Thomas*; living in 1665.
10. *John*; living in 1653.

- x. GABRIEL, bapt. Sept. 24, 1617; m. Anne Barker, the marriage recorded at Great Yarmouth under the date of May 23, 1643, and at Woodbastwick, co. Norfolk, under the date of May 18, 1643; d. before Sept. 5, 1654. He was made a freeman of Great Yarmouth in 1639.

Gabriel Ward of Great Yarmouth, merchant, made his will on March 18, 1645. All his houses, tenements and grounds in Great Yarmouth and all his goods and chattels whatsoever were to be sold by his executors within convenient time for the best prices, and the money that should arise upon the sale thereof, after debts and funeral expenses are paid, to be equally divided into three parts. One part to Ann his loving wife, to be paid as soon as it can be raised. One part to his son Thomas Ward at 21. If his wife is with child, the third part to that child. But if his wife is not with child or the child shall die before it shall receive its portion, Thomas is to have two parts. Thomas' share and that of the unborn child are to be put into the hands of the Bailiffs, Aldermen, Burgesses and Commonalty of Great Yarmouth, they giving security to the executors for its payment to the said children at 21, and also the interest to the said Ann toward the maintenance of the children. Executors: loving brother Jeffery, and wife Ann. Witnesses: Henry Edwards, Anthony Barker. Codicil. If both Thomas and the other child depart this life before they receive their portions, then his sister Jane Mills shall have £30 thereof and the residue of the two parts is to be equally divided among the children of his brother Toby Ward. Proved Sept. 5, 1654.*

Child:

1. *Thomas*; living in 1665.
- xi. ELIZABETH, bapt. Dec. 19, 1619; probably d. young.

* *Ibid.*

VII

HUTCHINSON, OF SALEM

HUTCHINSON

The surname Hutchinson is derived from the given name Huchon which was a diminutive of the Old French name Hue. Huchon was used in Scotland and from it came Hucherson, not uncommon in that kingdom, while Hutchinson in north England and Hutchins in south England have the same origin.

1. RICHARD¹ HUTCHINSON was born in England about the year 1602. In 1634, with his wife Alice and several children, he came to New England and settled in Salem. He may very possibly be identical with that Richard Hutchinson who married Alice Bosworth at Cotgrave, co. Nottingham, December 7, 1627, and who was the father of three daughters baptized in neighboring parishes between 1628 and 1630, two of whom bore the names of Richard Hutchinson's two oldest daughters with him in Salem. The descent from an armorial family of Hutchinson of Arnold and Newark, co. Nottingham, provided for him, is, however, insufficiently proven to be acceptable. Alice Hutchinson, who joined the Salem church in 1637, died before 1668. In October, 1668, Hutchinson married Susanna Archer, widow of Samuel Archer of Salem. She died November 26, 1674. The wife of his old age was Sarah Standish, widow of James Standish of Salem who had died in 1679, Hutchinson being administrator of his estate. Hutchinson died in Salem Village in 1682. His widow married soon afterward Thomas Roots of Manchester and was his widow in 1683/4.

Hutchinson applied for admission as a freeman and was sworn March 4, 1634/5. For the first few years after its arrival the family seems to have lived in the thickly settled part of Salem, as it is recorded that Philemon Dickerson was granted land for tan-pits near Richard Hutchinson's house in 1639. Before this, however, he had begun to accumulate the large acreage in the heavily forested section, later known as Salem Village and Danvers, which became his homestead. In 1636 and 1637 he was granted a total of one hundred acres, the last twenty being on condition that he "shall sett up plowing within 2 years." Clearing the land was a lengthy process. Adjoining this land were two hundred acres granted to Mr. (Edmund) Freeman and one hundred acres granted to John Thorndike, both of which Hutchinson acquired, giving him a farm of four hundred acres. On June 6, 1648, he bought from Elias Stileman an adjoining farm of one hundred

and fifty acres, now the center of Danvers,* and on February 21, 1649, with his son-in-law Nathaniel Putnam he bought from William Haynes one-half (one hundred and fifty acres) of the Pease farm.† His final important purchase was made in partnership with John Putnam, John Hathorn and Daniel Ray on October 31, 1662, when they bought from "Worshipful Major Hathorn" and Capt. Richard Davenport two farms of about two hundred and eighty acres each,‡ all of which made him one of the greatest land owners of the place and time.

Hutchinson's public services were slight. In 1636/7 with Richard Brackenbury and Thomas Lathrop he viewed "what Inlands their is betwixt Jeffreys creeks and Mackerell Cove, 4 or ffyve miles," in what is now Manchester. He was admitted to Salem church in 1647. His appearances in court, both as plaintiff and defendant, were in minor causes, but as a witness in *Cromwell v. Rush* in 1660 he gave the interesting information that his age was then about fifty-eight years.§

In 1661 Hutchinson and his son-in-law Nathaniel Putnam went to Ipswich to arrange a marriage between Hannah Hutchinson and Daniel Boardman with Boardman's father. To further the match Thomas Boardman agreed to give Daniel a deed for one-half of his dwelling, orchard and land, and if Daniel should die without issue Hannah was to be paid a £100 jointure after which his whole estate was to be at his father's disposal. After the marriage Boardman built a new house and offered Daniel his choice of that or the old one to live in, but he delayed giving a legal conveyance and his son finally sued for it.||

Hutchinson disposed of much of his property to his children in his lifetime. He and his wife Alice conveyed half of the Stileman farm to Nathaniel Putnam in 1651.¶ On May 16, 1666, he gave to his son Joseph one quarter of the Stileman farm "where are now his dwelling house, barn and land already broken up," the apple trees in the old orchard and three hundred other acres. On the same day he deeded to his son John the family homestead and all of the meadow purchased of Capt. Davenport.** In 1680 he made a gift to his son-in-law James Hadlock which was confirmed by Joseph Hutchinson in 1704.††

Richard Hutchinson made his will January 19, 1679/80, and it was proved September 28, 1682. He directed that his "deare & loveing wife" should remain at his son Joseph's house, with con-

* Essex Deeds, 1: 4.

† *Ibid.*, 1: 6.

‡ *Ibid.*, 2: 55.

§ *Records and Files*, II: 206.

|| *Ibid.*, III: 270.

¶ *Ibid.*, V: 323.

** Essex Deeds, 2: 119; 3: 18.

†† *Ibid.*, 15: 101.

venient house room, meat, drink and lodging, and other things comfortable and suitable for one of her age, and an allowance of 10s. yearly, for her natural life if she saw fit. If she preferred to live in some other place, she was to have that estate which she brought with her, which in the first case was to go to his executor. To his son-in-law Anthony Ashby and his daughter Abigail, twenty acres of land. To his son-in-law Daniel Bordman and his daughter Hannah, twenty acres of land. To his granddaughters Bethia Hutchinson and Sarah Hadlock, to each of them, ten acres of land. To his servant Black Peter, five acres of land. To his sons-in-law Nathaniel Putnam, Thomas Hale, James Hadlock, Daniell Bordman and Anthony Ashby 40s. each. To his son and executor, Joseph Hutchinson, his servant Peter and all the rest of his estate real and personal. Apparently Joseph declined the executorship as the widow Sarah and Nathaniel Putnam were appointed administrators Aug. 25, 1682.*

Children:†

- i. ALICE, bapt. in North Muskham, co. Nottingham, Sept. 27, 1628; d. before her father.
- ii. ELIZABETH, bapt. in Arnold, co. Nottingham, Aug. 30, 1629; m. Nathaniel Putnam.
- iii. MARY, bapt. in North Muskham, co. Nottingham, Dec. 28, 1630; m. (1) May 26, 1657, Thomas Hale of Newbury, who d. Oct. 22, 1688; she m. (2) William Watson of Boxford.
- iv. REBECCA; m. in Salem in May, 1658, James Hadlock.
2. v. JOSEPH.
- vi. ABIGAIL, bapt. in Salem Dec. 25, 1636; m. (1) John Lambert of Rowley on May 14, 1662;‡ m. (2) Anthony Ashby before 1670.
- vii. HANNAH, bapt. Jan. 20, 1638(9); m. April 12, 1662, Daniel Boardman of Ipswich.
- viii. JOHN, b. May, 1643; m. July, 1673, Sarah Putnam; d. Aug. 2, 1676. His widow presented a petition to the probate court which was consented to by her father-in-law and her father and accepted by the judge, asking that her child be given one-half of its father's land when it came of age and on its mother's death as much of the other half as to give it two-thirds of the whole, the other third to be at the free disposal of the widow. The inventory of the estate amounted to £273.§

Child:

1. Sarah; m. Joseph Whipple. She and her husband conveyed the John Hutchinson house, barn and land to their son Joseph Whipple in 1726 and 1734.||

* Essex Probate, No. 14429.

† The existence of the first child and the baptismal dates of the first three are dependent on the identity of Richard Hutchinson of Salem with the man of that name in co. Nottingham.

‡ *Records and Files*, IV: 50.

§ *Ibid.*, VI: 250.

|| Essex Deeds, 67: 231, 232.

2. JOSEPH² HUTCHINSON (*Richard*¹) was born in England about the year 1633. His first wife was Bethia Prince, a step-daughter of John Gedney.* She died before February 28, 1677/8, when he married Lydia (Buxton) Small, widow of Joseph Small. He was still living in Salem Village January 30, 1715/6, but on June 26, 1716, he was spoken of in a deposition of John Houlton as deceased.

Hutchinson's life was spent in Salem Village, farming his broad inheritance. He was constable of Salem in 1677, on the county trial jury in 1663, 1678, 1679 and 1681, and on the grand jury in 1661, 1662, 1668, 1669, 1674 and 1675. Although not a member of the church, he gave the village the acre of land on which its first meetinghouse was built in 1673 and was one of five who gave Mr. Bailey, its first and unordained minister, twenty-eight acres of land "for his more comfortable subsistence amongst us." Not much mention of him is found in the county records. Several depositions giving his age indicate 1633 as the year of his birth, and he was a party to a few minor suits for trespass and debt. He and his brother John had built a dam and a sawmill on Beaver Dam brook by 1672, when Lieut. Thomas Putnam sued them for flowing the common highway and making it unsafe for travelers, the jury finding for Putnam and ordering the dam pulled down or mended.†

After his father's death he was also involved in a suit with his stepmother. Instead of remaining with Joseph, one of the alternatives provided by her husband's will, Sarah Hutchinson elected to "take her abode among her relations" as a preliminary to her immediate remarriage. When she took away the articles which she had brought with her to the Hutchinson house, Joseph presented a paper for her signature which she signed without hearing it read, believing it, as she stated in the resulting suit, to be a simple discharge. Although the matter is not entirely clear, the paper apparently contained also an acknowledgment of her indebtedness for support and maintenance, and she and Nathaniel Putnam, as administrators of Richard Hutchinson's estate, sued Joseph in 1684. Awarded costs, Joseph apparently was successful in his defense. Witnesses testified that his separation from his "mother-in-law" was entirely amicable.

During the greater part of its seventeenth-century existence Salem Village was torn by internal and external dissension. There were fierce boundary disputes with Topsfield, dissatisfaction with

* See article by G. Andrews Moriarty in the *American Genealogist*, XIV: 83.

† *Records and Files*, V: 25.

the village's relationship to the mother town of Salem, quarrels between the parish (political) and the church (spiritual) and personal controversies over the choice of ministers, all culminating in the horrors of the witchcraft delusion of 1692. Joseph Hutchinson seems to have kept fairly clear of contention. He was, however, definitely of the parish party. In 1686 he fenced off his land surrounding the meetinghouse acre, leaving an entrance on the end toward the road. The authorities sued him for so doing and his answer is indicative of his character.

“Joseph Hutchinson his answer is as followeth:—First, as to the covenant they spoke of, I conceive it is neither known of by me nor them, as will appear by records from the farmer's book. Second, I conceive they have no cause to complain of me for fencing in my own land; for I am sure I fenced in none of theirs. I wish they would not pull down my fences. I am loath to complain, though I have just cause. Third, for blocking up the meetinghouse, it was they did it, and not I, in the time of the Indian wars; and they made Salem pay for it. I wish they would bring me my rocks they took to do it with; for I want them to make fence with.

Thus, hoping this honored Court will see that there was no just cause to complain against me, and their cause will appear unjust in that they would in an unjust way take away my land, I trust I shall have relief; so I rest, your Honor's servant,

(Nov. 27, 1686.)

JOSEPH HUTCHINSON.”

In the long controversy between the parish and the church resulting from the personality and cupidity of Mr. Parris, Hutchinson was definitely arrayed against that clergyman, and thus placed himself and his family in grave danger when, in the frantic months of 1692, Parris practically held powers of life and death in his control. This does not mean that Hutchinson did not believe in the existence of witchcraft. He obviously did, as in an emotional reaction to the accusations of the “afflicted” children, he was one of the complainants who procured the warrants against the first unfortunate women accused—Tituba, Mr. Parris's Indian slave, Sarah Good and Sarah Osburn. As the hysterical proceedings advanced, however, he seems to have had strong doubts. He and his wife were among the signers of the declaration as to the character of Rebecca Nurse, and later the close questioning to which he subjected the child Abigail Williams upon a casual meeting with her indicates grave suspicion. He emerged safely from the crisis and in later years continued to lend support to Mr. Parris's opponents.

Hutchinson did not leave a will nor is there any administration of his estate on file. He had given to his sons much of his real property during his lifetime.

Children, born in Salem Village, by first wife:

- i. ABIGAIL, bapt. Sept. 26, 1666; d. young.
- ii. BETHIA, bapt. Sept. 26, 1666; d. Nov. 1690. On Nov. 25, 1690, administration was granted to her brother Joseph. The inventory contained 10 acres given to her by her grandfather Hutchinson and a silver cup, the gift of her grandfather Gedney.*
3. iii. JOSEPH, bapt. Sept. 26, 1666.
4. iv. JOHN, bapt. Sept. 26, 1666.
5. v. BENJAMIN.

By second wife:

- vi. ABIGAIL, b. Jan. 14, 1678/9; m. Joseph Allen.
6. vii. RICHARD, b. May 10, 1681.
- viii. SAMUEL, b. Oct. 9, 1682; d. unmarried.
7. ix. AMBROSE, b. June 4, 1684.
- x. LYDIA, b. Sept. 13, 1685; m. April 29, 1709, George Nurse. (*See Nurse.*)
8. xi. ROBERT, b. Nov. 13, 1687.

3. JOSEPH³ HUTCHINSON (*Joseph*,² *Richard*¹) was baptized in Salem on September 26, 1666. He married about the year 1688 Elizabeth Swinnerton who died December 24, 1700, aged thirty-six. His second wife, married January 30, 1700/1, was Elizabeth Knight of Topsfield. He died in 1751, his wife Elizabeth surviving him.

Joseph lived in Salem Village on a farm given to him on July 1, 1703, by his father for love and affection and which he had previously occupied. It consisted of 50 acres of upland, and, in addition the gift covered 4 acres of upland, part of a town grant, on the west side of Ipswich river and all of his father's rights in Cromwell's and Prince's meadows.†

He joined the Salem Village Church on February 4, 1700 (1), and in 1732 he represented the church at the ordination of Rev. John Warren of Wenham.

The will of Joseph Hutchinson of Salem, yeoman, was made September 12, 1745, and proved June 3, 1751. To his son Joseph he left one-half of his upland in Middleton, all his right in Kenney's meadow, 4 acres of land in the homestead farm having an orchard called Joseph's orchard on it, one-half of the cider mill and one-half of a timber chain. To his son Ebenezer, the homestead lands and buildings, fences and orchards, except what was given to Joseph, one-half of the timber chain, all rights in Piney

* Essex Probate, 303: 11.

† Essex Deeds, 18: 156.

meadow and the Ipswich river meadows lying above the bridge going to Middleton and all outdoor personal estate. To his daughters Ruth Putnam and Elizabeth Buxton, £60 each. To his grandson Israel Hutchinson, £80, a cow and "my Great Book." To his son Joseph, £60. His clothing to his two sons and his personal estate within doors to his two daughters. His son Ebenezer was "to take tender care of my wife," and to be executor.* Administration, presumably c.t.a., was granted to his grandson Robert Hutchinson, Ebenezer Hutchinson and Asa Putnam sureties, on June 13, 1769.†

Children by first wife, born in Salem Village:

- i. JOSEPH, b. Jan. 27, 1689; m. (1) Oct. 19, 1710, Bethia Gould; m. (2) Jan. 19, 1719/20, widow Abigail (Eliot) Goodale; d. aged about 92. The will of Joseph Hutchinson of Middleton was made April 11, 1778, and proved June 5, 1781.
He left his property to his sons Abner, John and Joseph, his daughters Ruth Eliot and Elizabeth Nichols, the children of his daughter Sarah Swinnerton, deceased, his grandsons Josiah and Philip Hutchinson, sons of his son Josiah, deceased, and to Sarah Hutchinson, Josiah's widow.‡
- ii. RUTH, b. Feb. 26, 1690/1; m. Feb. 19, 1712/3, Josiah Putnam.
- iii. BETHIA, b. Dec. 24, 1693; m. June 9, 1715, Benjamin Putnam; d. Dec. 9, 1726, and he m. secondly her cousin Abigail Hutchinson (*John*³) on March 5, 1727/8.
- iv. EBENEZER, b. Feb. 20, 1694 (5); m. (1) Aug. 13, 1718, Hannah Gould; m. (2) April 5, 1727, Hannah (Southwick) Shaw. The will of Ebenezer Hutchinson of Danvers, yeoman, made May 24, 1769, and proved Jan. 2, 1776, left to his wife Hannah all his indoor movables except his wearing apparel, which was to go to his three sons, the westerly end of the dwelling house (except the chamber) and her dower rights in his land at Danvers and Middleton. To his daughter Hannah Hutchinson, the home and land formerly owned by her husband Amos Hutchinson (*Ambrose*³) and the west chamber in his [the testator's] house as long as she remained a widow. To his son Solomon, all the lands in the province of Hampshire and £8. To his daughter Bethia Brown, £15. To his granddaughter Hannah Hutchinson, daughter of his deceased son Joseph, late of Danvers, £20 at the age of 21. To his son Robert, the easterly end of the dwelling house and the westerly end after the death or marriage of his wife and daughter Hannah. To his sons Robert and Jeremy, all of his lands, to be equally divided. Executor: son Robert.§
- v. ELIZABETH, b. Feb. 22, 1695; d. Feb. 18, 1702.
- vi. ELISHA, b. March 14, 1697; d. March 1, 1702.
- vii. JASPER, b. Jan. 31, 1698/9; d. Feb. 16, 1702/3.

Probably by first wife:

- viii. ELISHA, b. about 1701; bapt. as an adult Oct. 26, 1729; m. Jan. 12,

* Essex Probate, 330: 115.

† *Ibid.*, 345: 397.

‡ *Ibid.*, 354: 458.

§ *Ibid.*, 351: 413. See Ebenezer⁴ (*John*³).

1726/7, Ginger Porter; d. before Sept. 20, 1730, when she m. secondly Daniel Andrew. His son, *Israel Hutchinson*, bapt. Nov. 12, 1727, was mentioned in his grandfather's will. Col. Israel Hutchinson had a very distinguished military career in the French and Indian war and in the Revolutionary army.

By second wife:

- ix. ELIZABETH, bapt. April 19, 1702; m. May 5, 1724, Benjamin Buxton.

4. JOHN³ HUTCHINSON (*Joseph*,² *Richard*¹) was baptized in Salem on September 26, 1666. He married on May 7, 1694, Mary Gould who died after 1705. His second wife, married May 4, 1710, was Hannah Howard of Beverly.

His father gave him 50 acres in Salem Village on May 3, 1694, four days before his first wedding.* He died before April 6, 1746, when his son William, administrator, presented an inventory of the estate, entering his account on March 27, 1749.†

Children, born in Salem Village, by first wife:

- i. A son, b. Sept. 2, d. Dec. 1, 1695.
- ii. MARY, b. Oct. 2, 1696; m. Dec. 19, 1721, Daniel Wilkins.
- iii. JOHN, b. March 31, 1699; m. Nov. 17, 1720, Abigail Giles; d. before Sept. 25, 1726, when his wife had a posthumous daughter, *Hannah*. The widow Abigail Hutchinson m. Jan. 22, 1733/4, Josiah Trask of Middleton. She was appointed administratrix of John's estate on Oct. 28, 1726, and, as Abigail Hutchinson *alias* Traske, she presented an account on Dec. 13, 1739. The income from John's real estate for thirteen years was £210, and she had received £22 as his share of a fishing voyage. The charges of her lying-in "after Death of said deceased" were £3: 10.‡
- iv. ABIGAIL, b. May 17, 1702; m. March 5, 1727/8, Benjamin Putnam, widower of her cousin Bethia Hutchinson (*Joseph*³).
- v. EBENEZER, b. June 3, 1705; m. Dec. 13, 1726, Mary Bound. To distinguish between Ebenezer (*Joseph*³) and Ebenezer (*John*³) is a difficult problem. If, as I think probable, Ebenezer (*John*³) is the man who married Mary Bound, she must have died and left him free to marry, secondly, Hannah ———, the marriage not being recorded. While Ebenezer (*Joseph*³) was of Danvers when he made his will on May 24, 1769, naming his wife Hannah, administration on the estate of an Ebenezer Hutchinson of Salem was granted to his widow Hannah on Nov. 7, 1768, Robert Baker and James Smith sureties. His dwelling house, shop and about 22 poles of land in Salem were valued at £200 in the inventory, which also contains his stock-in-trade including "Delph ware." The widow married William Sibley of Beverly on Jan. 24, 1771, and John Crane on Dec. 30, 1780, and, as Hannah Hutchinson now Crain, presented her account of June 7, 1784, Ebenezer being again stated to have been "of Salem," and her dower was then set off.§

* Essex Deeds, 19: 106.

† Essex Probate, 326: 553; 328: 459.

‡ *Ibid.*, 314: 305; 324: 122.

§ *Ibid.*, 345: 130, 304; 357: 40.

By second wife:

- vi. EUNICE, b. April 9, 1712; m., int. Sept. 17, 1731, Holyoke Putnam; d. before May 4, 1742, when he m. Esther Lovell.
- vii. WILLIAM, b. Jan. 16, 1713/4; m., int. Nov. 9, 1733, Joanna Trask; d. before April 4, 1757, when guardianship of Ebenezer, William and Hannah Hutchinson, minors over 14, children of William Hutchinson, deceased, was granted to Noah Cressey of Beverly.* Cressey had married in 1733 Rebecca Trask, presumably the children's aunt.

5. BENJAMIN³ HUTCHINSON (*Joseph*,² *Richard*¹) was born in Salem about 1668. He married November 14 (1689) Jane Phillips who died November 7, 1711. His second wife was widow Abigail Foster whom he married January 26, 1714/5. He died before 1733 when his widow was still living.

On October 2, 1691, Nathaniel Ingersoll, one of the leading citizens of Salem Village, and his wife, they being childless, signed a document of unusual interest: "Benjamin Hutchinson, being an infant when he was given to us by his parents, we have brought him up as our own child, and he the said Benjamin living with us as an obedient son until he came of one and twenty years of age, he then marrying from us, I the said Nathaniel Ingersoll and Hannah my wife . . . do upon the marriage of our adopted son . . . give and bequeath to him, his heirs and assigns forever, this deed of gift of ten acres of upland and also three acres of meadow."† On the same day Benjamin's natural father gave him 30 acres of land, the witnesses to the deed being that notorious couple, Rev. Samuel and Elizabeth Parris.‡

In 1718/9 Deacon Ingersoll added to his affectionate benefactions by devising, subject to his wife's life estate, to "Benjamin Hutchinson (my adopted son) who was very dutyfull to me while he lived with me & helpful to me since he has gone from me" all his real estate except two acres at the western end of the lot which was given to Salem Village as a training place forever.§

Unhappily Benjamin was involved in the witchcraft delusion as a witness against Rev. George Burroughs. He testified that one day about eleven o'clock in the forenoon he met Abigail Williams in the Village when Burroughs was in Maine, one hundred miles away. Abigail said that she then saw Burroughs. Hutchinson asked where. She said "There" and pointed to a cart rut in the road. Hutchinson threw an iron fork at the spot, and Abigail fell into a fit. When she came out she said "You have torn his

* *Ibid.*, 334: 286.

† *History of Witchcraft and Salem Village*, Charles W. Upham, Boston, 1867, I: 172.

‡ *Essex Deeds*, 30: 164.

§ *Danvers Historical Collections*, VII: 38.

coat for I heard it tear." Benjamin then went into the great room in Ingersoll's tavern and Abigail followed him and said "There he [Burroughs] stands." Benjamin said "Where, where?" and drew his rapier. Abigail then said "He is gone but there is a gray cat." Then Benjamin struck with his rapier and Abigail fell into a second fit. When she recovered she said "You have killed her." He said that he did not see a cat, but she replied that the spectre of Sarah Good had carried it away.

Obviously pleased with her performance, Abigail returned to the tavern in the afternoon, after the lecture in the church, bringing with her Mary Walcott, another of the juvenile delinquents. The girls declared that the great room was full of witches whereupon Benjamin and Eleazer Putnam lunged with their rapiers in every direction. As before, the two girls went through their fits and on coming out said that three witches had been killed and the floor was covered with blood. The two young men saw no blood and no bodies, but this was of course easily explained. The other witches, a great band, had laid the bodies out on a hill which could be seen from the tavern window.* On such evidence George Burroughs was hanged.

Hutchinson was received into the Village church on May 7, 1699, but before that, in 1697, he had been on a parish committee to treat with Mr. Joseph Green "to see if they can prevail with him to come and preach with us a while in order to a further settlement." In 1708 he was licensed to keep a public house of entertainment at the house in which Deacon Ingersoll then lived.

There are no records or papers dealing with Benjamin Hutchinson's estate. His widow, called his mother-in-law [stepmother] by Benjamin's son Benjamin in 1733, survived him.

Children, by first wife, born in Salem Village:

- i. A son, b. Aug. 31 and d. Sept. 18, 1690.
- ii. HANNAH, b. May 7, 1692; m. March 11, 1717/8, William Henfield.
- iii. BENJAMIN, b. Jan. 27, 1693/4; m. Feb. 7, 1715/6, Sarah Tarbell; d. in Bedford March 13, 1780. He was a cooper by trade, and settled with his family in Bedford by 1733 when he sold some Salem Village land, joining his brother Jonathan Hutchinson of Andover in another conveyance to Ebenezer Hutchinson of Salem in 1750.†
- iv. BETHIA, b. Jan. 5, 1695/6.
- v. NATHANIEL, b. May 3, 1698; m. (1) Jan. 24, 1722/3, Mary Cummings of Topsfield; m. (2) Joanna Conant, mentioned as Joanna Hutchinson in the will of her father Lot Conant in 1743/4. He moved to Sutton after his father's death and d. there in 1757. Will made May 5, 1756, proved Oct. 4, 1757. His widow Joanna survived until 1802, aged 93.

* *History of Witchcraft and Salem Village*, supra, II: 151, 197.

† Essex Deeds, 111: 248; 123: 65.

- vi. SARAH, b. Dec. 26, 1701; m. Nov. 17, 1725, Cornelius Putnam; d. in Sutton June 9, 1741.
- vii. BARTHOLOMEW, b. April 27, 1703; no further record.
- viii. JANE, bapt. Oct. 5, 1708; m. Sept. 8, 1726, Jonathan Buxton, Jr.

By second wife:

- ix. JONATHAN, b. July 18, 1716; m. Jan. 30, 1734/5, Elizabeth Ganson; presumably d. in Andover in 1768. In 1750 he sold his Salem Village land to Timothy Fuller and bought a tract with a house and other buildings in Andover from Walter Smith. Administration on his estate was granted to Abijah Ingalls on Oct. 24, 1768.*

6. RICHARD³ HUTCHINSON (*Joseph*,² *Richard*¹) was born in Salem on May 10, 1681. He married, February 16, 1713/4, a girl whose name was recorded as Rachel Prance when their intentions were published and Rachel Bance in the marriage record. She was not a member of the Prince family of Salem and possibly she was related to a ship captain, Philip Prance, of whom there is a local record in 1689. Prance was then in command of the ketch *James Bonaventure*, 30 tons burden, holding a pass from the governor to go on a voyage to Barbadoes.

His father's gift of Salem Village land to Richard, made December 8, 1707, was 30 acres of upland.† On September 23, 1734, Richard sold 3 acres and 139 rods in Salem Village to Jethro Putnam for £58, also giving Putnam a bond for £100.‡ This is the last record of him found and it is probable that he went to Maine with his son Stephen.

Children, baptized in Salem Village:

- i. STEPHEN, bapt. Aug. 14, 1715; m. (1) Feb. 22, 1737/8, Abigail Haskins; m. (2) Hannah ———;§ m. (3) in Windham, Maine, Ann (Thorn) Legrow, widow of Joseph Legrow of Marblehead. Stephen died about 1788, and his widow, Ann, died in Hebron, Maine, in 1805.

Stephen Hutchinson and Anna, his wife, deeded to their son Joseph Hutchinson 50 acres in Windham on Jan. 26, 1780.¶ Ann Hutchinson was living alone in Windham in 1790. Probably members of this family were Joseph, Samuel, John and Stephen Hutchinson who were taxed in Windham in 1795; Richard Hutchinson who married Hannah Stevens on Dec. 17, 1771, Richard Hutchinson (probably the same man) who married Abigail Davis on Oct. 1, 1778, and Stephen Hutchinson who married Elizabeth Webb on July 10, 1776, all in Windham; Joseph Hutchinson who died in Feb., 1801, and John Hutchinson who died July 10, 1804, both in Hebron.

* Essex Probate, 345: 113.

† Essex Deeds, 24: 254.

‡ *Ibid.*, 76: 217; 78: 207.

§ According to Mr. Sidney Perley.

¶ Cumberland Deeds, 11: 211.

- ii. LYDIA, bapt. Sept. 2, 1716; m., int. Oct. 18, 1740, Benjamin Ganson.
- iii. RACHEL, bapt. Sept. 29, 1723; no further record.
- iv. ELIZABETH, bapt. Sept. 29, 1723; no further record.
- v. DANIEL, bapt. Aug. 17, 1729; no further record.
- ? vi. JOSEPH, added by Mr. Sidney Perley, who presumably had some unstated evidence.

7. AMBROSE³ HUTCHINSON (*Joseph*,² *Richard*¹) was born in Salem Village on June 4, 1684. He married Ruth Leach on June 24, 1709. His father gave him 28 acres of the home farm on June 3, 1708.*

Administration of the estate of Ambrose Hutchinson, late of Danvers, was granted to his widow Ruth and his son George on September 26, 1757. The inventory, entered Oct. 8, disclosed property worth £103, the dwelling house and 13 acres of land being valued at £80, but on June 14, 1758, the estate was declared insolvent, there being debts of £124. Ebenezer Swinnerton was appointed administrator *de bonis non* on July 4, 1774, and he made a distribution to creditors on Feb. 7, 1775.†

Children, baptized in Salem Village:

- i. AMOS, bapt. June 10, 1711; m. (1), int. Aug. 30, 1733, Abigail Hutchinson; m. (2) July 7, 1737, Hannah Hutchinson (*Ebenezer*⁴, *Joseph*³), who d. Sept. 23, 1804.
- ii. ISRAEL, bapt. Aug. 23, 1713; no further record.
- iii. SAMUEL, bapt. April 24, 1715; m. Nov. 13, 1735, Elizabeth Judd. He and his wife Elizabeth were living in Woodstock, Worcester County, in 1748 when they conveyed to Francis Nurse one-half of a half acre in Salem.‡
- 9. iv. JOHN, bapt. July 5, 1719.
- v. JAMES, bapt. June 11, 1721; d. in 1752, when on Dec. 4 administration was granted to his brother George. The inventory of his estate contained only two items, his clothing, knee buckles and shoe buckles (£5: 6: 8), and his sea chest (2s. 8d.). Obviously he was a sailor and unmarried.§
- vi. GEORGE, bapt. Nov. 1, 1730; m. (1), int. May 18, 1748, Elizabeth Bickford of Middleton; m. (2) Susan Bevins. He settled in Lyndeborough, New Hampshire, and was suing Jonathan Grimes in 1770 to recover a cow which he had lost in 1769. He was sued by Joshua Wright in 1771 for failing to deliver 12,000 shingles on a contract signed in 1768. In both cases he was called "of Lyndeborough."||

On April 16, 1799, administration on the estate of George Hutchinson of Wilton (next town south of Lyndeborough), husbandman, was granted to William Hutchinson of Hillsborough, the widow of the deceased having resigned her right. Dower was set off to

* Essex Deeds, 22: 43.

† Essex Probate, 335: 11, 49; 337: 322; 350: 348; 351: 120.

‡ Essex Deeds, 93: 66.

§ Essex Probate, 331: 85, 116.

|| New Hampshire Province Court Records, Nos. 5372, 28460.

widow Susanna on Oct. 17, 1799, and on May 29, 1800, the estate was declared insolvent.*

Samuel, Elizabeth, George and Ruth, children of George and Susannah Hutchinson, were baptized in Lyndeborough in 1770, followed by Clark in 1771, and Ambrose and Mary in 1772. William, the administrator, was probably the eldest son, possibly by the first wife, Elizabeth Bickford.

8. ROBERT³ HUTCHINSON (*Joseph*,² *Richard*¹) was born in Salem Village on November 13, 1687. He married on December 27, 1711, Elizabeth Putnam. His second wife, married June 6, 1717, was Sarah Putnam, who is not identified by the Putnam family genealogist, but who may have been Sarah, born about 1695, daughter of Eleazer Putnam. Robert died in 1733 and his widow was most probably the Sarah Hutchinson who married Ebenezer Proctor on July 10, 1735.

Robert was his father's principal beneficiary, having been given on June 3, 1708, the mansion house, barn, stock of cattle, all movable goods not given to the other children, 25 acres, 4 acres where the old meetinghouse stood, one lot (about 12 acres) on Thorndike's hill and all land on the west side of Ipswich river. This gift was dependent on Robert's fulfillment of his bonds to his mother, Lydia Hutchinson, his sisters Abigail Allen and Lydia Hutchinson and his brothers John and Benjamin.†

Robert seems to have been very successful as a man of business. Administration was granted to his son-in-law William Shillaber on April 24, 1733. Shillaber brought in an inventory in the total sum of £869, the house, barn and land valued at £400 and one-quarter of a grist mill and a scythe mill at £300. There were included many articles of merchandise which were obviously the stock in trade of the shop which the Hutchinsons kept and which, with the southerly lower room of the house and the chamber over that room and the shop, was a part of Sarah Hutchinson's dower. The funeral charges, in the administrator's account, came to £4: 16: 6.‡

Children, baptized in Salem Village:

- i. SARAH, bapt. Sept. 21, 1712; m., int. Oct. 31, 1730, Capt. William Shillaber.
- ii. ROBERT, bapt. May 6, 1716; d. before 1733.

9. JOHN⁴ HUTCHINSON (*Ambrose*,³ *Joseph*,² *Richard*¹) was born in Salem Village on July 5, 1719. He was presumably the

* Hillsborough Probate, 8: 224-225, 452, 458; 9: 26, 163.

† Essex Deeds, 30: 179.

‡ Essex Probate, 318: 104; 321: 305, 375-377.

John Hutchinson, Jr., who married Hannah Wooden in Salem on May 30, 1745. With his brother George he moved to Lyndeborough, New Hampshire, before 1753 as his son Nehemiah deposed that he was born there in that year. On August 5, 1766, Benjamin Lynde of Salem sold to John Hutchinson, Jr., of Lyndeborough, home lot No. 27 in the latter town for £17:10:0.* John Huchason, the Ulsterman† would have been his "Senior" at that time. About six weeks later, on September 20, he conveyed lots 22 and 23 in Lyndeborough to Jonathan Grimes of Monson for £19:6:8, his wife Hannah releasing dower.‡

John Hutchinson's name appears as a dissenter to a vote to build a meetinghouse at Lyndeborough in 1765, John Huchason also being in opposition.

On March 26, 1777, administration on the estate of John Hutchinson "was granted to Nehemiah Hutchinson at his elder brother's request." This would seem to indicate that the elder brother had moved elsewhere. The inventory of April 30 contained only personal property, and as this was insufficient to pay the debts, the estate of John Hutchinson, "late of Lyndeborough," was declared insolvent. However, there was some real estate, although it had not been included in the inventory, and the administrator was authorized to sell it, which he did, realizing £80, as is entered in the final account dated April 29, 1799. No dower was set off and no widow named, so it is obvious that his wife Hannah had predeceased him.§

Between 1745 and 1768 John Hutchinson probably had many children of whom only three are identified.

Children:

- i. The "elder brother" of Nehemiah in 1777.
- ii. NEHEMIAH, b. about 1753 (aged 65 in 1818) in Lyndeborough; m. at Pelham, New Hampshire, Oct. 2, 1778, Mary Johnson;|| d. in Litchfield, Maine, on Feb. 2, 1837, according to a deposition by his son Adam.

In 1818, when he applied for a pension from Litchfield, he declared that he was 65 years of age and had been born in Lyndeborough. He first served (a "Minute Man") from May, 1775, until Jan. 1, 1776, under Capt. Spaulding in Col. James Read's regiment, and fought at Bunker Hill. He reënlisted Jan. 1, 1776, under the same officers, as a sergeant and was in the battle of Trenton, in which town he was discharged on Jan. 1, 1777. On May 30, 1820, he testified that he had in his family his wife Mary, aged 59, his son

* Hillsborough Deeds, 6: 140.

† See p. 94.

‡ Hillsborough Deeds, 19: 465.

§ Hillsborough Probate, 2: 542-543, 606; 3: 260.

|| See p. 7.

Adam, aged 14, and daughters Betsey, aged 20, and Mehitable, aged 18. The pension was granted but his name was later dropped from the list because of his ownership of property. Under a new law it was restored in 1827.*

On Jan. 14, 1779, he bought from William Campbell of Francestown lot 10 in the Oderhorn Right, which Campbell had bid in at an auction held by Francestown of lands on which taxes had not been paid and which Campbell had contracted to sell to him.†

Nehemiah's name was on the tax list at Lyndeborough in 1786. Tradition states that it was in 1787 that he moved to Smithfield Plantation, later named Litchfield, with his wife's family, the Johnstons. However, the Census of 1790 shows him living in Smithfield alone which would indicate that he had left his wife and family in New Hampshire until he had cleared a farm and built a house.

On Aug. 18, 1838, Mary Hutchinson of Monmouth, Maine, testified that she was the widow of Nehemiah Hutchinson and that she was married on Oct. 2, 1778, her maiden name having been Mary Johnson. On the same day, Adam Hutchinson of Monmouth, aged 32, deposed that he was the 13th and youngest child of his parents, and gave the date of death of his father. The widow probably lived with this son.

- iii. ISRAEL, b. about 1765 in "Lanesboro" [Lyndeborough] (aged 53 in 1818); m. March 17, 1792, Jane ———; d. in Hallowell on June 12, 1850.

He entered the Revolutionary Army in May, 1779, when he would have been only fourteen years old and served under Capt. Ellis and Col. Scammel in the New Hampshire Line until July, 1780, when he was discharged at West Point. He was perhaps a drummer boy as James Campbell of Litchfield, who later testified for him, was a drum major. In December, 1781, he enlisted again and served until February or March, 1784, under Capt. Isaac Frye in Col. George Reid's Regiment, and was again discharged at West Point.

He moved to Smithfield Plantation about 1787 with his brother Nehemiah and was living alone there when the Census of 1790 was taken.

He applied for a pension by affidavits dated April 11 and Sept. 14, 1818, describing his service. His supporting witnesses were John Neal and James Campbell, both of Litchfield, Richard Jackson of Monmouth and Asa Redington. His claim was allowed but cancelled in 1820 as he owned 60 acres of land in Hallowell. Under the Act of 1832 he again applied successfully. On Nov. 21, 1850, Jane Hutchinson, aged 81, deposed that she was the widow of Israel Hutchinson and gave the dates of their marriage and his death, and in 1855, aged 86 and living in Manchester, Maine, she applied for bounty land. Thomas McCausland and Andrew Hutchinson, both of Manchester, certified to her identity.‡

It is his statement in his affidavit supporting the pension claim of Capt. Adam Johnson that effectively separates the Hutchinsons from Salem Village from the Huchasons of Scotch-Irish origin, contemporaries in Lyndeborough. After saying that Capt. Johnson married Mary Hutchinson, he added a definite "She was not a connection of mine."

- iv. ELIJAH, bapt. in Lyndeborough on Oct. 16, 1768, son of John and Hannah Hutchinson.

* U. S. Pension Files, N. H., W. 23, 360.

† Hillsborough Deeds, 8: 54.

‡ U. S. Pension Files, N. H., W. 23, 385; BLWt. 24756-160-55.

VIII

BUXTON, OF SALEM

BUXTON

Buxton is a place name, and Buxton in Derbyshire is a well-known health resort owing to mineral springs. There is, however, a parish of Buxton in Norfolk, and it is probable that the Buxton families in East Anglia, of whom there are not a few, owed their surname to origin in the latter place.

Identification of an English home is, of course, less difficult when three emigrants of different surnames but closely related are involved. In the case of Anthony Buxton we have his uncle or cousin William Vinson and Vinson's mother who was probably the widow Isabel Babson, but so far this has failed to produce the desired result.

1. ANTHONY BUXTON was born in England about 1610, came to New England as a young man and was admitted an inhabitant of Salem November 8, 1637. He married Elizabeth ——— about 1640, and she survived him when he died in the summer of 1684.

Apparently Buxton came to America with an uncle or cousin, William Vincent, who was about his age, and Vincent's mother, for in Roger Conant's list of grantees of marsh lands, probably made in December, 1637, William Vincent, Vincent's mother and "Vincet's coin [cousin] Antho: Bucstone" are successive entries.* Some years later he was joined by his brother, Thomas Buxton, who was certainly in Salem by 1648.† Thomas, apparently a widower, died in 1654 and Anthony was appointed to administer his estate. The court directed that he pay to the three children of Thomas, who were in England, £21, and that the remainder be divided between Anthony and his children. The inventory totaled only £52, the chief item being "eleven acres of land with a little house on it lying in the north neck."‡

In addition to the five acres given him when he was admitted to Salem, and his half acre of marsh, Buxton received from the town four acres of meadow in 1658. He had several times applied for a grant of upland, and in 1661 he was allotted ten acres "if he can tell where to find it," a rather unsatisfying answer. In 1664 he was granted thirty acres "lying about the seaven mens bounds." This was the farm on the Ipswich river, beyond Salem Village, which he left to his son John.§ In 1692 his son Joseph

* *History of Salem*, Sidney Perley, I: 461.

† *Records and Files*, I: 158.

‡ *Ibid.*, I: 357, 373.

§ *Town Records of Salem*, I: 59, 221.

was living in the western part of the north field on a farm which had apparently been Anthony Buxton's homestead.

Anthony Buxton was a member of the grand jury in 1663, 1666, 1677, 1680 and 1681. He was several times a witness against Quakers and others for absence from meeting, as was Elizabeth Buxton, aged thirty-eight, in 1661. He took the Oath of Fidelity March 25, 1678, and the Freeman's Oath in June, 1682. By warrant dated July 19, 1678, he was appointed a tythingman, and at various times he was a member of committees to view and mend highways and bridges.*

Elizabeth Buxton witnessed the nuncupative will of John Leach, Sr., in 1659, and Anthony Buxton took the inventory of the estate of Anne Fuller, who had been a widow Leach, in 1662. He was a witness and overseer of the will of John Marsh in 1674.†

In 1662 the Buxtons lost two children within six days, and in 1676 three children, a boy of twenty-two, a boy of twenty and a grown girl, the two latter dying on the same day, doubtless victims of some contagious disease.

In June, 1681, Anthony Buxton "who hath attended his duty in trayneing either in ye exercise of armes or attending ye company to whom he belonged in ye Field for forty yeares or more but now labouring under ye Burden of his Infirmities through his age being 71 as aforesaid doth thinke that he may presume to address himself to this honored court for his Freedom from his attendance on ye duty of trayning being in noe wise able to doe it." His request was granted upon the payment of one-half bushel of corn yearly to the use of the company.‡

The will of Anthony Buxton of Salem was made March 8, 1683/4, and proved July 29, 1684. To his wife Elizabeth he left his dwelling house with all the land thereunto belonging for her life, all his cattle and movable goods. To his wife, also, the land he bought from Thomas Wheeler in the north field, but his daughter Elizabeth Cook was to have the upper part thereof as far as it had been improved by her husband Isaac Cook. To son John, the thirty acres granted by the town of Salem, lying on the Ipswich river. To daughter Lydia and her children, £6. To daughter Mary and her children, £6. To daughter Sarah and her children, £6. To son John, "my great bel metal mortar which I brought out of England." After the death of his wife the lands given to her were to go to his son Joseph, but Elizabeth was to have liberty

* *Records and Files, and Town Records of Salem, Vol. I, by index.*

† *Probate Records of Essex County, I: 288, 390; II: 422.*

‡ *Records and Files, VIII: 150.*

to dispose of half the value of the houses and lands as she saw fit among the children. To daughter Hannah, £10 at marriage. Executrix: wife Elizabeth, with son Joseph to assist. Witnesses: Nathaniel Felton, Robert Fuller, William Osborn. Inventory, £238.*

His widow was probably the Elizabeth Buxton who signed the testimonial to Rebecca Nurse's character in 1692.

Children, born in Salem:

- i. ELIZABETH; m. May 3, 1664, Isaac Cook.
2. ii. JOHN.
- iii. LYDIA; m. (1) Dec. 26, 1672, Joseph Small; m. (2) Feb. 28, 1678, Joseph Hutchinson. (*See Hutchinson.*)
- iv. MARY; m. Dec. 27, 1671, John Cook.
- v. SARAH; married and had children in 1684.
- vi. RACHEL; d. Feb. 24, 1675(6).
- vii. ANTHONY, b. Sept. 6, 1653; d. May, 1676, unmarried.
- viii. SAMUEL, b. Aug. 14, 1655; d. Feb. 24, 1675(6).
- ix. JAMES, b. Aug. 8, 1659; d. Oct. 15, 1662.
- x. THOMAS, b. Feb. 24, 1661; d. Oct. 20, 1662.
3. xi. JOSEPH, b. July 17, 1663.
- xii. HANNAH, b. Jan. 27, 1665; m. Jan. 13, 1687, David Foster.

2. JOHN² BUXTON (*Anthony*¹) lived on his father's farm on the Ipswich river in that part of Salem which was known as Salem Village and later became the town of Danvers. His first wife, whom he married March 30, 1668, was Mary Small. She died February 27, 1675. He married, secondly, Elizabeth Holton on October 7, 1677. He died May 16, 1715, aged about seventy-one.

In 1683 he entered a serious Salem Village controversy by going on the bond of Rev. George Burroughs who was suffering what seems to have been a most unjust persecution on the part of a church faction which did not end until the minister was hanged in 1692. Buxton believed in the existence of witchcraft, as did most of his contemporaries, and was one of the accusers of Sarah Wildes on April 21, 1692, but before the year was out he himself was among the victims of the delusion which ended, however, before he was brought to trial.

The will of John Buxton was made April 15, 1715, and proved June 18, 1715. To son John, the thirty acres of land he now lives on, excepting the privilege of water for the mill and six acres of meadow. To son Joseph, twenty acres of my farm next to Samuel Goodale's, where he now dwells, and four acres of meadow on the west side of the river. To son Anthony, two acres where his house stands, three acres adjoining Benjamin Swinner-

* Essex Probate, 302: 74-75.

ton's land, ten acres in the great pasture adjoining his brother Joseph's land and four acres on the west side of the river in partnership with Joseph. To each of my sons Ebenezer, Benjamin, James and Amos, sixteen acres in the great pasture and two acres on the east side of the river. To sons Joseph and Anthony, my mills equally between them, they paying to my daughters £50. John, Ebenezer, Benjamin, James and Amos are to pay £3 apiece to my daughters. To daughters Mary Goodale, Elizabeth Fuller, Sarah Darling and Hannah Perkins, £10 apiece. To grandson Joseph Fuller, £5 when he comes of age. To daughter Lydia, £20. Residue to wife Elizabeth until her youngest son Jonathan comes of age, when he shall have one-half of the homestead until the death of his mother, when he shall have all. Executors: sons Joseph and Anthony. Witnesses: Joseph Hutchinson, Joseph Goodale, Jonathan Putnam.*

Children, born in Salem, by first wife:

- i. MARY, b. Sept. 3, 1669; m. Dec. 25, 1697, Samuel Goodale.
- ii. ELIZABETH, b. Aug. 13, 167—; possibly m. (1) — Andrews and (2) May 3, 1693, Thomas Fuller.
- iii. JOHN, b. Nov. 29, 1675; m. (1) Nov. 26, 1700, Priscilla Lynn; m. (2) Jan. 1, 1706/7, Margaret Chick. He lived in Middleton where he d. in 1749, his son Stephen being appointed administrator of his estate Oct. 16, 1749. His grandfather's bronze mortar was in his possession.†

Children, by first wife:

1. *John*, bapt. April 26, 1702.
2. *Stephen*, bapt. June 25, 1704; m. Mary —; a tailor in Middleton.
3. *Priscilla*, bapt. May 26, 1706; m. at Ipswich Nov. 4, 1729, Caleb Foster.

By second wife:

4. *Mary*, bapt. June 6, 1708.
5. *Bartholomew*, bapt. Oct. 30, 1709; m. March 28, 1732, Keziah Pudney of Reading.
6. *Margaret*, bapt. June 28, 1713; m. Nov. 13, 1732, David Mackintire of Reading.
7. *Timothy*, bapt. Oct. 3, 1714; m. Deborah —; children recorded in Salem.

By second wife:

- iv. JOSEPH, b. Nov. 24, 1678; m. Abigail —; d. in 1750. He was a husbandman, weaver and cooper in Salem.

The will of Joseph Buxton, made May 17 and proved July 22, 1750, left £13: 6: 8 to each of his daughters, Abigail Richardson, Rachel Averill and Hannah Peal. To his daughter Lydia Buxton,

* Essex Probate, 311: 395.

† Essex Probate, 329: 56.

£19: 3: 14. To his daughter Lydia's daughter Ruth, £6: 13: 4 at the age of eighteen. To his wife Abigail for life, with a remainder to his son Joseph, all his movable estate within doors and all the buildings and land that he had from his late uncle John Holten. Joseph was to supply his mother with firewood and corn. To son Joseph, all lands in Salem and Middleton not already disposed of. Executor: son Joseph Buxton.*

Children, born in Salem:

1. *Joseph*, b. May 28, 1709; m., int. Dec. 19, 1730, his cousin Elizabeth Buxton.
2. *Abigail*, b. July 27, 1712; m. May 7, 1741, Solomon Richardson of Middleton.
3. *Rachel*, b. May 1, 1714; m. in Preston, Conn., Jan. 5, 1737/8, Jabez Averill.
4. *Hannah*, bapt. March 12, 1717/8; m. Sept. 10, 1738, Ebenezer Peel.
5. *Sarah*, bapt. June 21, 1719; d. young.
6. *John*, bapt. May 21, 1721; d. young.
7. *Lydia*, bapt. Aug. 9, 1724; unmarried in 1750 but had an illegitimate daughter, Ruth, named in her grandfather's will. Ruth was bapt. July 21, 1745, and m. May 23, 1759, James Brown. A Lydia Buxton m. Feb. 28, 1754, William Hutchinson in Danvers.

v. SARAH, b. Feb. 9, 1680; m. April 27, 1704, Thomas Darling.

vi. ANTHONY, b. Feb. 24, 1682; m. June 1, 1711, Dorcas Gould; d. in 1724 when on July 6 his widow was appointed administratrix of his estate. Dorcas Buxton's intention to marry John Giles was published Dec. 21, 1728, but apparently the wedding did not take place as another intention to marry Ebenezer Faulkner of Andover was entered Aug. 17, 1730, and as Dorcas Buxton *alias* Faulkner she submitted the account of her administration.†

Children, born in Salem:

1. *Elizabeth*, b. April 4, 1713; m., int. Dec. 19, 1730, her cousin Joseph Buxton, Jr.
2. *Enos*, b. March 10, 1715/6; m. Jan. 24, 1738/9, Hannah Greenslade.
3. *Daniel*, b. May 8, 1718; d. before 1738 when Enos was only surviving son of his father.‡

vii. HANNAH, b. Jan. 20, 1685; m. Feb. 12, 1713/4, Timothy Perkins of Andover.

viii. RACHEL, b. May 6, 1688. Rachel Buxton is the center of a genealogical puzzle. She certainly would seem to be the Rachel Buxton who married Joseph Fuller in Salem April 10, 1711, had a son Joseph born Feb. 28, 1711/2, and died March 6, 1711/2, within a week of the birth of her son. John Buxton, in his will made in 1715, does not mention his daughter Rachel but does leave a legacy to his grandson Joseph Fuller. But on March 26, 1717, a Rachel Buxton married John Putnam in Salem, and in 1738 John Putnam was appointed administrator of the estate of his brother-in-law Ebenezer Buxton. Now Ebenezer Buxton was a son of John Buxton and a brother of the Rachel Buxton whom we have, with every reason, married to Joseph Fuller and buried in 1711/2. Ebenezer Buxton

* *Ibid.*, 329: 313.

† *Ibid.*, 314: 87; 321: 49.

‡ Essex Deeds, 77: 211.

seems to have been a bachelor and the only way that John Putnam could have been his brother-in-law was by marriage with Ebenezer's sister. Only one of Ebenezer's sisters was unmarried in 1715—Lydia, born in 1692, for whom no marriage is found. I guess that John Putnam married *Lydia* Buxton. Their first child was named Lydia Putnam.

- ix. EBENEZER, b. June 20, 1690; cooper; d., apparently unmarried, in 1738 when his brother-in-law John Putnam was appointed to administer his estate on Dec. 28.*
- x. LYDIA, b. Oct. 16, 1692; unmarried in 1715. See account of her sister Rachel, above.
- xi. BENJAMIN, b. March 11, 1694/5; m. May 5, 1724, Elizabeth Hutchinson. He was a cooper, and d. in Danvers in 1770, *s.p.*

The will of Benjamin Buxton of Danvers was made Oct. 26, 1770. He left to his wife Elizabeth all of his personal estate (except his Negro servants) and the income from his real estate and the use of his servants for her life. Upon her death his Negro man Peter and his Negro woman Zilpah and her children (Phillis, Cate and Scipio) were to be made free, and two-thirds of the estate were to go to Peter and one-third to Zilpah. Executrix: wife Elizabeth.†

The will of Elizabeth Buxton, widow, was made Oct. 14, 1778, and proved Feb. 1, 1779. To widow Hannah Hutchinson, my largest pewter platter. One half of my pewter to my nearest relations and one-half to my Negro man Peter. To Ruth Putnam, my red pine chest with a drawer. To widow Mary Brown, my blue quilted coat. To Abigail wife of Eli Brown of Middleton, my black crepe gown. To Peter, my best bed and its furniture and all my indoor movables, my stock of creatures and implements of husbandry. Executor: Elisha Putnam.‡

- xii. JAMES, b. Sept. 28, 1698. In 1723 he went to North Yarmouth, Maine, where he lived "convenient to go to Mr. William Scales garrison." He apparently went there, not only for protection but to court Susanna Scales whom he married by 1725. He drew Lot 100 in the division of lands in 1727.

Children, born in North Yarmouth (possibly others) :

1. *William*, b. Feb. 19, 1726; m. Lydia Jones.
2. *Ebenezer*, b. Oct. 20, 1727.
3. *Hannah*, b. Sept. 17, 1731; m. Dec. 13, 1753, Ezekiel Long.
4. *Cornelius*, bapt. Nov. 4, 1733; m. (1) April 29, 1762, Lydia Bucknam; m. (2) Abigail Blanchard.
5. *James*; lived in Falmouth.
6. *Mary*, bapt. April 15, 1739; m. William Chase.
7. *Susanna*, bapt. April 26, 1747; m. Joseph Staples.
8. *Benjamin*, bapt. April 8, 1750; m. Elizabeth Grant.
- xiii. AMOS, b. Feb. 12, 1700/1; m. (1) March 25, 1724/5, Elizabeth Porter; m. (2) July 9, 1747, Mary Johnson; d. in 1778 when on Feb. 3 administration on his estate was granted to Amos Buxton, Jr., who brought in an inventory of £1323.§

Children, born in Salem, by first wife:

1. *Anna*, b. Sept. 22, 1726.

* Essex Probate, 318: 188.

† *Ibid.*, 346: 406.

‡ *Ibid.*, 353: 344.

§ *Ibid.*, 353: 41.

2. *Elizabeth*, b. Oct. 24, 1728; m. Feb. 15, 1749/50, John Tapley.
3. *Mary*, b. May 23, 1730; m. Dec. 12, 1754, Joshua Swinerton.

By second wife:

4. *Amos*, bapt. May 5, 1751.
 5. *Sarah*, bapt. May 5, 1751.
- xiv. JONATHAN, b. July 25, 1706; m. Sept. 28, 1726, Jane Hutchinson; cooper; d. before Sept. 23, 1745, when administration was granted to his widow Jane Buxton.*

Children:

1. *Jonathan*, bapt. July 20, 1729; m. June 27, 1757, Elizabeth Cook.
2. *Elizabeth*; m. May 9, 1750, Ezekiel Fowler.
3. *Daniel*.
4. *Benjamin*, b. April 2, 1736.

3. JOSEPH² BUXTON (*Anthony*¹) was born in Salem July 17, 1663. He married Esther ——— about the year 1688, and lived in the family homestead in Salem. He died in the winter of 1751-1752.

Joseph Buxton's will was made March 26, 1745, and proved February 10, 1752. To his daughter Elizabeth Buffum, £60 to be paid by his son Jonathan. To his daughter Lydia Darby, £60 to be paid by his sons Samuel, James, John and Jonathan. To his son Samuel, two common rights at Bartholomew's Rocks. To his son James, the land where James's house stands and three acres in the lower end of King's lot, next the river. Each of his sons is to have a right of way through King's lot forever. To his son James, one-quarter of Read's hill and one-half a common right. To his son John, the land where John's house and barn stand, twelve acres partly in Wheeler's lot and partly in Robinson's lot and two common rights at Bartholomew's Rocks. To son Jonathan, the family dwelling-house and land, the lot adjoining, one and a half acres in a meadow bought from Samuel Cooke, one-quarter of Read's hill and two and one-half common rights. To daughters Elizabeth Buffum and Lydia Derby, all indoor movables, except his clothes. To his four sons and two daughters, all his other movables. Executors: sons James and John.†

Children, born in Salem:

- i. ELIZABETH, b. Nov. 17, 1689; m. Benjamin Buffum.
- ii. SAMUEL, b. May 2, 1691; m., int. Jan. 7, 1715/6, Elizabeth Hanson of Dover, N. H., who m., secondly, ——— Lapham; d. in Smithfield,

* *Ibid.*, 323: 185.

† *Ibid.*, 330: 313.

R. I., in June, 1753. He moved to the Quaker settlement at Smithfield with his brother-in-law Benjamin Buffum soon after his marriage. Between 1744 and 1751 he deeded his farming lands to his sons* and on Aug. 24, 1753, his widow, Elizabeth Buxton, was appointed to administer his estate. The inventory, taken by Abel Aldrich and Daniel Southwick, was in the sum of £402.†

Children:

1. *Benjamin*; m. by 1747 Charity Maule of the Quaker family of Salem.
 2. *Samuel*; m. in Smithfield Nov. 28, 1751, Martha Thompson. His will, made Sept. 22, 1774, mentions his wife Martha, his mother Elizabeth Lapham, his brothers Benjamin, Joseph, Caleb, and Aaron and Lydia Callam who was either his sister or his niece.‡
 3. *Joseph*; m. in Smithfield Feb. 10, 1752, Sarah Goldthwaite.
 4. *Julia (Lydia?)*; m. in Smithfield March 12, 1752, Daniel Callam.
 5. *Caleb*.
 6. *Aaron*.
- iii. JAMES, b. March 2, 1692/3; m. (1) in Lynn Dec. 9, 1726, Abigail —; m. (2) Sept. 16, 1747, Elizabeth Woodward of Brookline; d. in Salem Sept. 2, 1755. Administration on his estate of £842 "in lawful money" was granted to his widow Elizabeth Nov. 3, 1755, his only children Keziah Breed and Anna Buxton being named in the papers.§

Children:

1. *Keziah*; m. Oct. 3, 1754, Nathan Breed, Jr., of Lynn.
 2. *Anna*.
- iv. JOHN, b. Feb. 25, 1695/6; m. Nov. 12, 1723, Elizabeth Buffum; joiner and maltster; d. in 1759. Administration on his estate was granted to his widow Elizabeth Buxton Sept. 3, 1759, and his estate was valued at £1408.||

Children, born in Salem:

1. *Elizabeth*, b. Sept. 27, 1724; m., int. Nov. 8, 1746, Enoch Goodale.
2. *Thomas*, b. Feb. 15, 1725/6; m. June 19, 1748, Sarah Purrington.
3. *Abigail*, b. Nov. 18, 1727; m. Jan. 11, 1749/50, Abner Jones of Amesbury.
4. *John*, b. Sept. 2, 1730.
5. *Joseph*, b. March 21, 1731/2; m., int. Sept. 15, 1758, Abigail Bray.
6. *Mary*, b. Nov. 30, 1733; m. Jan. 22, 1761, John Osborn.
7. *Joshua*, b. March 12, 1734/5.
8. *James*, b. March 25, 1736/7; m., int. Nov. 28, 1767, Patience Osborn.
9. *Esther*, b. Nov. 24, 1738; d. Sept. 4, 1740.

* Smithfield Deeds, 2: 279; 3: 412, 501, 506.

† Smithfield Probate, 2: 138.

‡ *Ibid.*, 1769-1797, p. 132.

§ Essex Probate, 333: 277.

|| *Ibid.*, 326: 345.

10. *Henry*, b. Aug. 23, 1740; m. Dec. 10, 1765, Eleanor Osborn.
11. *Amos*, b. Feb. 22, 1742/3.
12. *Lydia*; m. Dec. 17, 1769, William Huntington of Amesbury.
13. *Esther*, b. Feb., 1750; d. unmarried in Danvers Sept. 19, 1838.

v. JONATHAN; m. Elizabeth Southwick;* d. about Aug. 14, 1754.

vi. LYDIA; m. May, 1726, Roger Derby.

* Essex Deeds, 80 : 113.

IX

HUCHASON, OF LITCHFIELD
AND LYNDEBOROUGH

HUCHASON—HUTCHINSON

This family of Huchason, or Hutchinson as it later became, is, I feel sure, of Ulster origin. Not only is Huchason a Scotch variety of the name but the New Hampshire family with which we are to deal was closely associated with Scotch-Irish families such as Johnston, Carson and Campbell. As is well known, the people of Scotch blood in New England were, for the first few generations after their immigration, very clannish.

The foundation for this short pedigree was laid by Mr. Oliver Clason in his trustworthy study of the early settlers of Litchfield, Maine.* Without giving documentary references, Mr. Clason stated that Capt. Adam Johnson married Polly Hutchinson, sister of Samuel Hutchinson; Samuel Hutchinson, who came to Litchfield in 1787, was not related to Nehemiah and Israel Hutchinson who settled there at about the same time; Samuel's father, not named, emigrated from Londonderry, Ireland, to Londonderry, New Hampshire, then moved to Litchfield, New Hampshire, where Samuel was born; Polly Hutchinson's husband, Adam Johnson, a contemporary settler in Litchfield, Maine, came from Lyndeborough, a neighboring town to Litchfield, New Hampshire. All of what Mr. Clason wrote, doubtless obtained from Samuel Hutchinson's grandchildren, many of whom he must have known and interviewed, has been proved by later research, with the exception of the emigration from Londonderry to Londonderry.

When the search was transferred from Maine to New Hampshire one difficulty succeeded another. The towns of Lyndeborough and Litchfield and the surrounding settlements were peppered with Hutchinsons, and in these very new frontier locations records were scarce. In addition, town lines were constantly being changed, new towns were set off from old, and the inhabitants were of a migratory habit. The conclusions which I have reached are, I think, sound, but it is possible that they could be upset by new evidence, or, rather, evidence that has not yet come to light.†

In Litchfield, where Samuel Hutchinson said that he was born, a John Huchason is found in the records from 1744 to 1746. In 1760 he was "John Huchason, late of Litchfield now of Salem-Canada" [Lyndeborough], and it is he that was Samuel's and

* *History of Litchfield*, O. B. Clason, Augusta, 1897.

† Mr. Charles Thornton Libby and Mr. Merton T. Goodrich have both worked over the New Hampshire and Hillsborough County sources for me.

Mary's, or Polly's father. Although there is no proof and no evidence except a common locality, it seems possible that this John was a son of a John Hutchinson, as the Boston scribes spelled his name, who was a Bostonian and Scotch-Irish by origin. In November, 1742, Alexander Parker of Litchfield sold to John Hutchinson of Boston, merchant, one half of a tract of 645 acres in Litchfield.* This tract is fully described, but there has been found no deed which tells us what became of it. It may be the land on which our John Huchason was living in 1744, two years later, or it may have been a speculative venture by the Boston merchant which he did not follow up. John Hutchinson had joined the Charitable Irish Society in Boston on April 8, 1739. He was late of Boston, merchant, in 1747 when administration on his estate was granted to his widow, Hannah Hutchinson, who entered an inventory on November 27, 1747, listing no land but a small personal estate which contained, nevertheless, several "articles of luxury."† No children are mentioned and thereafter the widow Hannah disappears.

In Lyndeborough, when John Huchason moved there, there were two Hutchinson brothers, George and John, of the Salem Village family,‡ which creates new complications, which have, I hope, been straightened out with a fair degree of accuracy.

1. JOHN HUCHASON was probably born about 1710 in Ireland and the tradition that he emigrated from Londonderry in Ulster to Londonderry, New Hampshire, which was predominantly a Scotch-Irish settlement, can be regarded as basically true. This does not preclude the possibility that he was a son of the Boston Scotch-Irish merchant, John Huchason, who would have brought his family with him when he left Ireland.

In Londonderry, New Hampshire, there is no surviving record of Huchason. We first find him in Litchfield, the next town to the west of Londonderry, on June 12, 1744, when he signed a petition addressed to the provincial authorities asking that soldiers and military stores be sent to the settlement, which was on the frontier, as the inhabitants apprehended that they were "Exposed to Imminent danger both from the french and Indian enemies." Two years later, on March 28, 1746, he joined in a petition that a parish be established on the east side of the Merrimac, where there were forty families, pointing out the dangers to which they were

* New Hampshire Deeds, 26: 334.

† Suffolk Probate, No. 8885.

‡ See p. 74.

exposed in crossing the river in order to go to church, and on May 17 of the same year he and his neighbors asked that this eastern tract be made a town.* To each of these documents he signed his name John Huchason.

On July 10, 1756, Jonathan Pell of Salem, shipwright, made an agreement with Huchason that if Huchason would build a good dwelling-house of twenty feet in length and eighteen feet in width on the house lot or first division lot No. 60 in Salem-Canada and settle a family thereon, he would convey the lot, which contained 60 acres, to him. Huchason fulfilled the conditions and received his deed on September 27, 1760, being called therein "John Huchason late of Litchfield now of Salem-Canada." The deed was not recorded until April 30, 1788.† Salem-Canada was incorporated as Lyndeborough in 1763, John Hutchason (note the change in spelling due to the name's affinity for the English Hutchinson which finally prevailed) signed the petition for incorporation on June 28, 1763.

Although one cannot be certain, inasmuch as there was a John Hutchinson of the Salem Village family in Lyndeborough at the time and the clerk used the spelling Hutchinson for them both, our John was probably the Sergt. John Hutchinson who was surveyor of highways in 1764 and selectman in 1765. One of the two was on the committee to see what encouragement the Proprietors would give toward Rev. Antipas Steward's settlement, and both of them dissented to the vote to build a meetinghouse, in 1765. However, later in 1765, Sergt. John was one of a committee charged with raising £80 to complete the meetinghouse.

Lot No. 60 in the First Division had a varied history. The title was apparently in Samuel Huchason on April 27, 1779, when he mortgaged it to his father, it being the lot granted by Jonathan Pell "on which the said John Hutchinson now dwells."‡ Samuel Hutchinson deeded it to William Carson on December 3, 1785, presumably to protect it from creditors.§ Two years later, on April 19, 1787, John mortgaged what interest remained to him to James Richardson of Ludlow, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, for £192.||

John Hutchason of Lyndeborough died in 1789 and administration was granted to Sarah Hutchason, single woman, on May 13, her bondsmen being Jacob Wellman, Esq., and Nathaniel

* *New Hampshire State Papers*, IX: 473, 475, 476.

† *Hillsborough Deeds*, 20, 269.

‡ *Ibid.*, 15: 181.

§ *Ibid.*, 17: 241.

|| *Ibid.*, 20: 300.

Phelps. She presented an inventory on June 16, listing no land but several large notes of James Richardson. In her account Sarah credits herself with "her services since she arrived at 21 years, being 13 years and 43 weeks." In her second account, filed in 1797, she entered a claim "for nursing widow Jenne Hutchinson" for 3 years and 32 weeks, and again for 2 years and 32 weeks. Her account was allowed, the only heir (ignoring heirs out of the state) being present and making no objection.* Sarah was undoubtedly John Hutchason's daughter, although not specifically called so.

The item in Sarah's account gives us the name of John Hutchason's widow Jane or "Jenne," possibly his only wife or perhaps a second wife. In Capt. Jacob Wellman's letter to his brother of August 29, 1794, he says "Esquire Rand and Mrs. Hutchinson are dead."

The later history of the family homestead of 60 acres, Lot 60, First Division, is somewhat confused. James Richardson seems to have assigned the mortgage to Sarah Hutchason of Lyndeborough, "spinner," in 1791, and on February 19, 1794, she sold the lot to Samuel Butterfield of Chelmsford for \$550. However, on August 21, 1801, after her marriage, Sarah Edes, administrator of the estate of John Hutchinson, and her husband Samuel Edes, discharged the Richardson mortgage of 1787.†

Children:

- i. JOHN (probably), b. about 1730. The towns of Litchfield and Merrimac were originally one settlement through which ran the Merrimac river which became the boundary between them. A John Hucheson of Merrimac, yeoman, was in 1753 one of the many Merrimac grantees to whom Joseph Blanchard, Esq., conveyed for one shilling each a large tract in a new township called Alexandria.‡ Hucheson signed a Merrimac petition in 1734, and in the same year Mr. Blanchard, the former grantor, sold to him 200 acres in Goffstown, near Manchester.§ On Feb. 3, 1757, John Hutcheson, Junr., of Litchfield, yeoman, sold this 200 acres (Lot 2 in Range 1) in the new township called Goffe's Town, to William Hutcheson for £100 cash.|| In Litchfield he would have been Junior to his probable father's Senior. He was possibly the John Hutchinson of New Hampshire who was taken by the enemy at Fort William Henry in August, 1757, during the French and Indian War, as reported by Joseph Steel.¶ On the index card of the 1757 deed, Hucheson to Hucheson, in the New Hampshire Archives in Concord is the no-

* Hillsborough Probate, No. 04484.

† Hillsborough Deeds, 31: 149; 32: 441; 20: 300.

‡ New Hampshire Deeds, 58: 247.

§ *Ibid.*, 44: 454.

|| *Ibid.*, 65: 434.

¶ Massachusetts Archives, 84: 304-320.

tation "This John Hutcheson Jr. reported dead 21 March 1763," this being the date on which the witnesses proved the deed in court in Portsmouth. Possibly he was a casualty of the war.

- ii. WILLIAM (probably) would seem to have been a brother of John who granted him the Goffstown land. On May 9, 1767, William Hutchinson of Falmouth (Maine) sold to Amaziah Pollard of Litchfield, New Hampshire, the 200 acres of land in Goffstown which had been granted to him by John Hutchinson.*

In Falmouth William is said to have married Rebeckah Reed, also of Falmouth. In 1762 he bought from Hubbard Haskell of Gloucester Lot 47, Division 1, in the town of New Gloucester, on which he lived until he and his wife Rebecca sold it, "my homestead farm," to Ephraim Johnson of Buxton in 1809.† William Hutchinson died in New Gloucester on Aug. 26, 1821, and his widow Rebecca on Jan. 6, 1823.

- 2. iii. SAMUEL, b. in Litchfield, New Hampshire, Aug. 10, 1748.
- iv. MARY (Polly), b. about 1752 (aged 92 in 1844); m., by her own statement, in August, 1772, Adam Johnson, both being of Lyndeborough. (*See Johnston.*)
- v. SARAH; m. after 1797 and before Aug. 21, 1801, Samuel Edes. She was administratrix of her father's estate, as stated above, 1789-1797, and was probably about fifty years of age at the time of her marriage.

2. SAMUEL² HUTCHASON (*John*¹) was born in Litchfield, New Hampshire, on August 10, 1748.‡ He married Elizabeth (Betsey) Johnston, daughter of Adam Johnston, Sr., about 1770 presumably in Lyndeborough. She died in Litchfield, Maine, on February 15, 1832.

Hutchason served in the Revolution as a corporal in Capt. Levi Spaulding's company, Col. James Read's regiment, made up largely of men from Lyndeborough and the surrounding towns, but, as he did not apply for a pension, the details of his service are lacking.

He signed a protest against laying out a new town, to consist of the northwestern part of Lyndeborough, on December 12, 1783, his signature being Samuel Hutchason.§ With his father, John Hutchason, his father-in-law Adam Johnson, his brother-in-law Adam Johnson and Amos Wilkins, all of Lyndeborough, he was sued by Moses Kelly of Goffstown in 1783 on their joint demand note for £41:1:1. Kelly won the case and an appeal by the defendants was not prosecuted. All of the defendants were called yeoman except the older Adam Johnson who was designated gentleman.

In or about 1787 he participated in the Johnson family migra-

* New Hampshire Deeds, 79: 244.

† Cumberland Deeds, 6: 132; 68: 389.

‡ This date, obtained by Mr. Clason in Litchfield, Maine, must have come from a family bible or other family record.

§ New Hampshire State Papers, XII: 512.

tion to Smithfield Plantation, later Litchfield, Maine, and in the Census of 1790 his family, living in Smithfield, consisted of himself, one son over 16, 6 sons under 16, and his wife and two daughters.

In Smithfield Hutchason was elected assessor at the first formal meeting on September 23, 1793, and served until the incorporation of the town in 1795. The original petition for incorporation, dated May 16, 1793, asking that the new town be named Great Hampton, met with refusal by the Massachusetts General Court to which it was addressed. Another attempt was made a year later, on December 31, and Samuel Hutchason and Abner True were named a committee to take the document to Boston and present it to the Court. Samuel was anxious that the town should be called Litchfield after his New Hampshire birth-place and this was consented to. He and True appeared before the General Court in Boston on January 10, 1795, and the bill to incorporate passed that body on February 18.

On October 9, 1790, Samuel Hutchason of Litchfield, Lincoln County, Massachusetts, conveyed part of Lot 60, First Division, adjoining the land of William Carson in Lyndeborough, to Jacob Cram.* This example of the possibility of tying a difficult family together by a lot number is genealogically interesting.

There are no papers dealing with Samuel Hutchason's estate on file and no record of his death. With the next generation the spelling of the family name became Hutchinson.

Children:†

- i. JOHN, b. Feb. 6, 1771; m. Dec. 19, 1793, Abigail Neal; accidentally killed Dec. 9, 1805; she d. May 30, 1858.
- ii. BETSEY, b. Feb. 26, 1773; m. John Neal.
- iii. SAMUEL, b. March 2, 1775; m. July, 1798, Rebecca Baker; d. Jan. 19, 1863. He was corporal in Lieut. Col. Stone's regiment in 1812.
- iv. WILLIAM, b. March 30, 1777; m. Sept. 25, 1808, Betsey Verrill.
- v. MEHITABLE, b. Aug. 4, 1779; m. Joshua Graves.
- vi. DANIEL, b. Nov. 26, 1781; d. at sea.
- vii. ELIAB STONE, b. Feb. 3, 1785; m. Patty ——— and lived in Hallowell. He would have been named for Rev. Eliab Stone who was minister in Reading, where his mother's family had lived before moving to Lyndeborough.
- viii. JAMES, b. Aug. 25, 1787; m. Dec. 24, 1812, Matty Jewell who d. June 16, 1857; he d. March 28, 1861. He was a musician in Lieut. Col. Stone's regiment in 1812.
- ix. ROBERT, b. June 14, 1790; m. ——— Ridley.
- x. HANNAH, b. Feb. 24, 1793; m. Eben Jackman.
- xi. SEWELL, b. Feb. 17, 1796; d. in the War of 1812. He would have been named for his mother's aunt, Rachel Sewell.

* Hillsborough Deeds, 38: 129.

† *History of Litchfield*, O. B. Clason, Augusta, 1897.

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